■ METRO / A25

Prison director wants to convert lethal injection chamber to museum of macabre

■ BUSINESS / B1

Reduced oil tariff will reduce pump prices by 50¢/liter

■ NEWS / A2

Solons press Malacañang to suspend VAT

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-6

South Africa's 1st Miss Universe (1978) pays tribute to Chat: She was the real deal

2 more Bayan Muna leaders slain in Bicol

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Ephraim Aguilar
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ONCE TARGETED BY THE MILITARY'S ALLEGED death squads, a leftist activist has only three months to live.

Bayan Muna national deputy secretary general Robert de Castro made this statement yesterday as two more militant leaders were felled by un-

2 MORE/ A22

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, April 28, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 139 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Freedom doesn't ring in Malacañang park

By Christine Avendaño

WALANG FREEDOM SA 'FREEDOM PARK!'

THIS IS ONE FREEDOM park that is not free at all as a venue for protest demonstrations, especially in these politically charged times.

Malacañang has a "Freedom Park" but it is

FREEDOM/ A23

Cory leads STOP Cha-cha

HE'S IN THE ARMY NOW
Sgt. Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao poses for a souvenir shot with his comrades in arms after commissioning rites on Thursday in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Multisectoral groups launch drive today

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

STOP CHA-CHA.

This is the latest "road show" that political opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo will launch today at historic Club Filipino in a bid to derail her Charter change (Cha-cha) initiative, a media advisory said.

At the forefront of "STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paraan) Cha-cha" are former President Corazon Aquino, senators and and congressmen and civil society, Church and business groups.

The advisory said the opposition figures and groups were banding together "to ardently oppose the Charter change railroad" of the President.

"Despite their varied opinions on issues surrounding Ms Arroyo, these leaders believe in the ill-timed promotion of Charter change and are committed to derailing its success," it said.

The immediate objectives for today's gathering, the advisory said, were "to bring together the widest possible coalition against Ms Arroyo's Cha-cha, [to start] a nationwide education and information campaign against Cha-cha via a road show, and [to formulate] a joint statement on the ill-timed promotion of Charter change."

The announcement of the movement came a day after the INQUIRER published an exclusive interview with Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde, leader of the 5-million-strong Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai.

Velarde said he would mobilize his followers to oppose the Malacañang-supported signature campaign that would pave the way for the "people's initiative" mode of amending the Constitution to adopt the parliamentary system. He said he had instructed his followers not to sign anything they did not understand.

On April 7, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral letter expressing alarm at the Malacañang-inspired move to change the Charter. The exercise, it said, was "dangerously unclear and open to manipulation by groups with self-serving interests."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said at a meeting yesterday that Velarde had told him he would support the campaign of the senators to oppose the people's initiative.

Drilon told the INQUIRER that he met with Velarde after the INQUIRER reported the El Shaddai leader's position on Charter change.

"I just went to see Brother Mike to confirm that indeed he will support the position we have taken, that this people's initiative is illegal, and he confirmed it," Drilon said.

Twenty-one of the 23 senators have signed a resolution expressing the Senate's position that the

CORY LEADS/ A4

'Workers don't have to rally for wage hikes'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WORKERS SET TO FILL THE streets on Labor Day primarily to demand a wage increase have found an ally in Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

The Roman Catholic prelate said yesterday that pressure in the form of protest actions would not be needed in a true Christian community if only matters like wage increases were settled fairly and without anger or bitterness.

"People don't have to revolt to achieve this," he said in Filipino in an ambush interview following a Mass marking the 25th anniversary of the Manila Cathedral as a basilica.

Rosales appealed to the government and businessmen to work for an increase in salaries, citing the skyrocketing prices of commodities fueled by the spike in world oil prices.

He said that a wage increase enough to sustain daily living—a perennial appeal from the labor sector—need not drag workers to the streets as could be the case again on Monday.

"What we need is a revolution of the heart so we can calculate how much we can do for our workers and our jobless brothers," he said.

"A Christian nation and a believer in God should, on its own, study this and give it to the workers and their families—this is what the Church is asking for," the cardinal said.

"Prices shouldn't only be the ones rising," he said. "We should also elevate the quality of life and

WORKERS/ A23

Cops find cache of explosives in Sayyaf 'hideout'

By Luigi A. del Puerto and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AS VARIOUS GROUPS PREPARE PROTESTS against President Macapagal-Arroyo on Labor Day, police yesterday reported seizing a cache of explosives believed intended to disrupt Monday's demonstrations in a raid on a suspected Abu Sayyaf hideout in Marikina City.

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Metro Manila, said a police team found six grenades, an improvised explosive device and other bomb materials in the raid on a rented bungalow at No. 21 Champagne St. in SSS Village.

But Dolina, who led the raid, said his team failed to arrest any of the Abu Sayyaf members who had been monitored coming in and out of the one-story house for several months.

"These bombs are ready for detonation ... The grenades could easily be thrown at the crowds on May 1," he told reporters.

"If they were planning to bomb a building, they would have stored high-explosive bombs. But they have grenades ... That means they were targeting people," Dolina said.

He said one of the dozen or so Abu members recently seen at the house was Jojo Janjalani, believed to be a distant cousin of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani.

Dolina said Jojo Janjalani was a suspect in the 2001 kidnapping of 20 people, including three Americans, from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

"We've been monitoring them for months, but when we sensed that they were already storing grenades, we moved in because they could use them for an immediate attack," he said.

COPS FIND/ A21

REM ZAMORA

LAUGHING WITH THE "ENEMY": Rep. Risa Hontiveros and lawyer Ibarra Gutierrez Jr. share a good laugh with Supt. Ramon Perez during a rally demanding justice for CPR victims.

CHR rues mayors' failure to act on rally permits

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nelson F. Flores

THE COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL HUMAN rights watchdog traced the violence in past demonstrations to the failure of mayors to put down in writing their decisions to grant or withhold rally permits.

The result was that it was often the police who got caught between the mayors' inaction and the protesters' insistence on their right to assemble, Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano of the Commission on Human Rights said.

The problem is that mayors refuse to act on a rally application but tell the police that no permit has been granted. The police then use the mayor's statement as basis to disperse a demonstration, Soriano said.

It was the police that took the brunt of the criminal and administrative charges filed yesterday by militant groups over the violent dispersals of antigovernment demonstrations from October last year up to this month.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao and several other officers were named in the charges filed in the Ombudsman.

The filing of the charges followed the Supreme Court decision declaring as unconstitution-

CHR RUES/ A21

8-yr-old Filipino tops int'l stamp tilt

GRAND PRIZE goes to Lea Anne Rulloda of Sta. Cruz, Manila.

By Nikko Dizon

AN 8-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FROM STA. CRUZ, Manila, has won the grand prize in a stamp design competition sponsored by the South Korean government, a Philippine Embassy official announced.

Lea Anne Rulloda, an incoming Grade 3 student at Regidor Elementary School, is the first Filipino to win the top award in the 2006 International Postage Stamp Design Contest, Vice Consul Arnel Talisayon told the INQUIRER in an e-mail.

"Hence, her design is the first Filipino design to get circulated (in South Korean stamps)," Talisayon said.

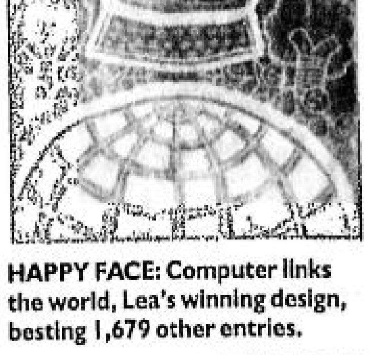
Lea Anne's work depicts a computer showing the smiling faces of two little children on top of a globe. It bested 1,679 other entries in the youth category of the contest.

The online competition, with the theme "A Ubiquitous World," was sponsored by the South Korean Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC).

Another Filipino, Jessy Salas, 18, a student at the Technological University of the Philippines, received an honorable mention in the same category.

Two years ago, another Filipino, Maria Enna Alegre, then 6 years old, had received an honor-

8-YR-OLD/ A22



HAPPY FACE: Computer links the world, Lea's winning design, besting 1,679 other entries.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/04/27/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Solons press Palace to suspend 12% VAT

By Michael Lim Ubac

AMID THE GLOBAL OIL CRISIS, CONGRESSIONAL leaders yesterday urged Malacañang to reconsider the proposal to suspend the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products, saying this could be the best solution to the problem of surging oil prices.

At the same time, Representatives Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City, Juan Edgardo Angara of Aurora and Jesli Lapus of Tarlac reminded President Macapagal-Arroyo that it was Congress, not Malacañang, that should decide the fate of a resolution seeking to temporarily defer the VAT on oil.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told reporters Monday that 146 of the 236 congressmen had signed the resolution, principally authored by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, favoring deferment of the VAT before "the price of gasoline becomes an unreachable star, an impossible dream."

In lieu of a law repealing the expanded VAT, Nograles said a joint resolution could be quickly adopted by the House and Senate asking the executive branch to temporarily shelve the tax measure.

Nograles said the resolution, which would express the sense of Congress, would only seek the lifting of the VAT on oil for a given period, thus there would be no need for another law.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to lower the import tariffs on oil to cushion the impact of record-breaking world crude prices and keep the government's finances on track, junking the idea of temporarily deferring the VAT on petroleum products.

Salceda, who had warned of the public's simmering "silent rage" over the surging oil prices, had said the VAT could be reimposed once world oil prices stabilized at $65 per barrel, from their current price of around $75.

The President's economic managers rejected the proposal to suspend the 12-percent VAT on energy products after the proposal spooked financial markets, foreign investors and international credit rating agencies.

But Puentevella said the President and her economic managers should "consider all options."

"The pros and cons of the proposal can and should be debated in Congress. We don't want to be naysayers but the oil crisis is real and we need to consider all options possible to mitigate it," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, meanwhile, did not take kindly to Salceda's warning of public rage over the surging oil prices.

"Conjectures about a silent rage do nothing to ease the anxieties of our people," Bunye said in a statement yesterday. *With Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

Solon claims 6 Abus died in jail

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE THE DEBATE ON THE death penalty rages, poor conditions in the country's overcrowded jails have proven fatal to at least six suspected members of the dreaded Abu Sayyaf Group during the last two years, an opposition lawmaker said yesterday.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman identified the latest fatality as Muktar Ahalul, 38, who died before dawn yesterday at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig due to "health complications," the same reason given for the deaths of five other inmates in the same prison since 2004.

"The idea of the President's decision is to save lives, but inmates died untimely even before they get the final verdict of their cases because of unfortunate jail conditions as exacerbated by (a) slow-paced justice system," Hataman said.

He identified the five other alleged ASG members who have died in Camp Bagong Diwa as Heldy Andolong, Mark Teodoro, Jairol Ambot and Benhar Ismi.

Their lawyers claimed that they were not given enough time to exercise under the sun, Hataman said.

Contacted for comment, Arturo Alit, head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), said he was not aware of the report. He referred the INQUIRER to regional BJMP officials but they could not be reached after office hours.

Hataman's disclosure came as the US Embassy announced the conclusion today of a week-long seminar for some 50 Filipino corrections personnel on prison management sponsored by the US government.

The seminar sought to provide the participants with a "broader understanding and knowledge of jail management, more effective ways of handling security measures, and a greater efficiency in handling jail incidents and organizing an emergency response team," the embassy said.

Two experts from the US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (Icitap) conducted the sessions.

Hataman said Ahalul died before dawn yesterday, eight months after being arrested with no formal charges filed against him.

"He was arrested in August 2005 because he was just mentioned in an affidavit of another suspect," Hataman said. "They linked him to the Abu Sayyaf although his father and 15 of his cousins and uncles were massacred by the group in one of the islands in Sumusip, Basilan in 2001."

Hataman said Ismi died last Monday, after a week of complaining that he had difficulty urinating and defecating.

One of the inmates' lawyers complained that the harsh conditions in jail might have been intended to "deliberately kill" suspected ASG members under detention, Hataman said, calling for a congressional investigation to look into the matter.

With Luige A. del Puerto

Legal eagles join Subic rape prosecution

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE TEAM OF PRIVATE lawyers representing the woman who has accused four US Marines of raping her has gained three seasoned lawyers: former Justice Secretary and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., former Sen. Rene Saguisag, and former UP Law Dean Pacifico Agabin..

"We asked them to help us," said Evalyn Ursua, lead private counsel. "These are legal luminaries and we want to send a message to the Filipino people that with us are other lawyers who believe in this fight because this is not just a fight for one rape victim. We are fighting for the pride, the dignity, the sovereignty of the country."

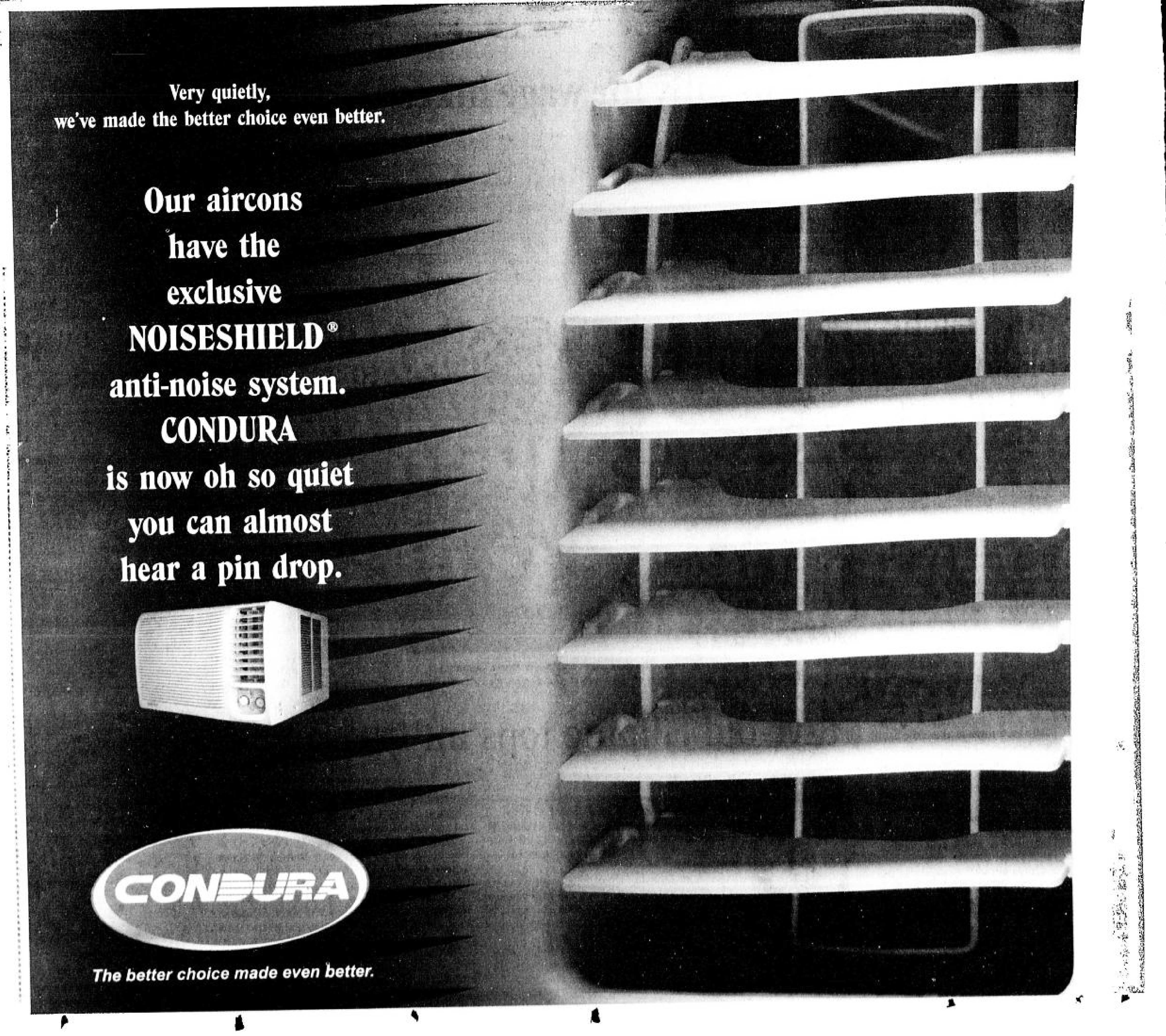
All working pro bono, the three new private prosecutors would join Ursua, Honorato Aquino and Annaliza Gonzales in pursuing the case against Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Marine Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis who are accused of raping the 22-year-old Filipina inside a van at the Subic Bay Freeport last Nov. 1.

The team has been at odds with the five-member panel of government prosecutors since Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's decision to downgrade the charges against three of the Americans from principals to accessories. Only Smith is to be charged as principal under the amended case.

Whether Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Benjamin Pozon admits or rejects the amended information is expected to be known this morning.

"We expect them to provide us with expert opinion and expert advice because there are so many gray areas involved in this case," Ursua said of her new collaborators.

If Pozon admits the amended information, today's scheduled arraignment will not take place because the complainant would take the case all the way up to the Court of Appeals, Ursua said.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SWS SURVEY

56% of Pinoys believe in giving mining a chance

MORE THAN HALF OF FILipinos believe that mining companies should have the chance to prove that mining operations and environmental protection can go hand in hand, according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations.

The survey showed that 56 percent of Filipinos agreed with the statement, "Mining companies should be given a chance to show that it is possible to protect the environment even as they offer the needed jobs to the country."

The survey was commissioned in March 2006 by Pedro R. Laylo in his capacity as a private citizen. Laylo, who worked as the "resident pollster" in the Office of the President from August 2001 to June 2004, said the survey was aimed at gauging public reactions to political messages.

Elated by the results, the Philippine Information Agency took out advertisements titled, "Let the Numbers Speak: It's time to move forward," on April 23 in two broadsheets, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The test items personally designed by Laylo were part of the quarterly SWS omnibus surveys that accept specific questions commissioned by sponsors.

The survey was conducted on March 8 to March 14 using face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It had sampling error margins of plus-minus 3 percent for national percentages and plus-minus 6 percent for area percentages, SWS said.

Last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo said that the country's mining potential could provide up to $90 billion in foreign investments.

The Chamber of Mines itself projected in 2004 that investments in the country's mining sector could reach about $6 billion to $7 billion over the next ten years.

The government also estimated that new mining projects could generate more than 43,000 jobs, P27 billion in new taxes, P684 million for social development funds and P1.7 billion in royalties for indigenous peoples by 2010.

The Supreme Court ruled in December 2004 that the controversial Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which opened exploitation of the country's mineral resources to foreigners, was constitutional.

But in January, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued a pastoral letter calling for the repeal of the mining law, using the Rapu-Rapu island mining incident in Albay as its main exhibit of possible environmental disasters.

The Rapu-rapu mining accident featured two cyanide spills on the island, which caused huge fishkills and reportedly endangered Albay's tourism potential.

In 1996, one of the biggest mining disasters happened in Marinduque, when an accident sent millions of tons of open-pit mine waste into a river. The operator of the Marinduque mine, Marcopper Mining Corp., was closed down by the government. Its partner, Placer Dome, left the country without compensating the people.

Efforts to appease the bishops have prompted Malacañang in February to consider a moratorium on new mining permits. *Kate Pedroso, PDI Research*

Rebs raid mining firm, burn gear

COMMUNIST GUERrillas burned millions of dollars worth of equipment during a raid at a mining firm in Davao, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said the New People's Army (NPA) rebels on Tuesday disarmed the guards hired by Heritage Resources Development Corp., a local firm mining chromite.

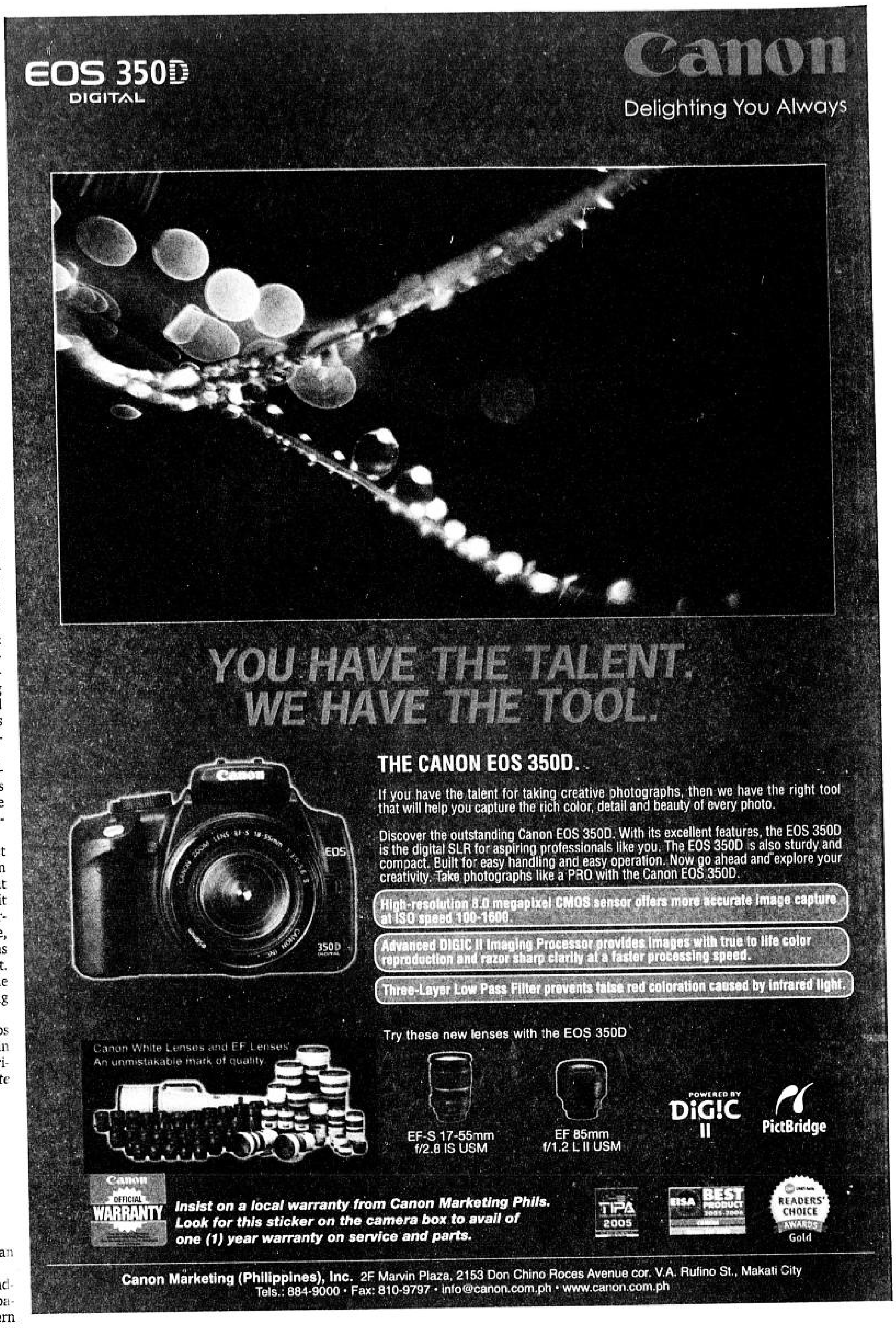
"We were told the company refused to give in to the rebels' extortion demands," Bacarro told reporters. Troops were sent to pursue the guerrillas and beef up security around the mining community.

Peace talks with the communists, brokered by Norway, stalled in August 2004 when Manila refused to help persuade the United States and some Western European states to remove the NPA from terrorism blacklists.

Bacarro said the blacklisting appeared to be working against the rebels as the fund flow from its supporters abroad had been effectively choked off, forcing them to resort to criminal acts, such as extortion and intimidation.

Bacarro said the rebels had been targeting businesses such as telecommunications, logging and mining to raise money to buy weapons and ammunition and to recruit and train fighters.

Mining officials said the attack in Davao was the second this month after suspected rebels burned the facilities and equipment of an Australian-controlled copper-and-gold mining company in a northeastern province. *Reuters*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Stop verification, court asked

By DJ Yap
Metro

GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE "people's initiative" for Charter change yesterday asked a Quezon City court to stop the Commission on Elections from verifying the signatures collected by Sigaw ng Bayan.

Led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the groups sought a temporary restraining order, with prohibition and permanent injunction, against Comelec officials.

In a 22-page petition, the People's Movement Against Charter Change, Counsels for the Defense of Liberties, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas argued that the people's initiative was "unconstitutional and illegal."

"The people's initiative feeds on insufficient information and even wrong information. (They tell the people) sign this so you can vote in the next election. Or sign this so a medical mission will visit your area," Guingona said.

Citing the Supreme Court ruling in Santiago v. Comelec, the petitioners said there was no law authorizing a people's initiative, as required by Section 2, Article XVII, of the 1987 Constitution.

Waste of public funds

They said the Comelec was "permanently enjoined" from entertaining any petition to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative, adding that the Comelec was only wasting and misappropriating public funds.

Named respondents were Comelec-National Capital Region director Ferdinand Rafanan and Quezon City district election officers Ma. Rhodoro Aquino, Ma. Lea Alarcon, Evangelyn Bautista and Florina de Guia.

Codal spokesperson Neri Colmenares said similar petitions had been filed in Manila, Makati City, Iloilo, Bacolod and Capiz.

He said the Regional Trial Court Branch 17 in Roxas City in Capiz had issued a 20-day TRO against the local Comelec officers, while the Iloilo petition had already been dismissed.

Colmenares added that similar petitions would be filed in Cagayan de Oro, Caloocan and Pasig cities.

Guingona said one successful petition in a congressional district would be enough to prove the irregularity of the so-called people's initiative spearheaded by Sigaw ng Bayan "and the Department of the Interior and Local Government."

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. advised the Arroyo administration to abandon its plans to amend the Constitution, since opposition to Charter change was becoming widespread.

"If (President Macapagal-Arroyo) doesn't abandon Charter change now, then she is showing the world that she would cling to power at all costs," he said.

Inevitable showdown

Reyes added: "A legal and political showdown between the two sides of Charter change is becoming inevitable."

KMP internal deputy secretary general Willy Marbella said the groups were seeking a TRO "because we want to stop the Cha-cha train from overrunning the true voice of the people." *With reports from Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cory leads STOP Cha-cha

From page A1

people's initiative was illegal. Senators Lito Lapid and Edgardo Angara did not sign.

Drilon said Velarde told him he was not against Charter change itself but against the "manner that the President is proposing it."

"This should be initiated by the people and not by the governors, the mayors and other government officials," Drilon quoted Velarde as saying during their one-hour meeting in Velarde's office.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang respected Velarde's position but insisted that "only through Charter change can we overhaul a system that continuous to degenerate due to excessive politicking."

Ardent supporters

Yesterday's media advisory said "ardent supporters" of STOP Cha-cha included former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Drilon, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senators Richard Gordon, Rodolfo Biazon, Mar Roxas, Pia Cayetano and Serge Osmeña III, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano, Nereus Acosta and Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Bishop Antonio Ledesma and University of the Philippines professor Randy David.

It was not clear who the actual organizers of the coalition were but according to a staffer in Drilon's office, it was a multisectoral effort by the so-called "Hyatt 10" group of Ms Arroyo's former Cabinet officials and Church and business leaders.

Drilon and Pimentel confirmed that nongovernment groups were in the organizing committee and that senators were going to participate in the campaign.

"It is a coordinated effort of all those who are similarly opposed to the people's initiative of Gloria," Drilon said in a phone interview. "This is not led by the Senate but there is a core group of senators [opposed to Charter change] and we are just one of the groups [participating in the campaign]."

Drilon said the broad coalition was formed after a "series of meetings in the past two or three weeks."

Common cause

Pimentel said it was the coming together of opponents of Ms Arroyo who differed on how she should be removed but had found common cause in opposing the people's initiative to adopt the parliamentary system.

The move to amend the Charter took off in the midst of opposition attempts to impeach Ms Arroyo last year over allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election. Former President Fidel V. Ramos then had said the adoption of the parliamentary system could provide a way out for Ms Arroyo in the worst political crisis of her 5-year-old administration.

The signature campaign to amend the Charter posed a single question—whether Filipinos would agree to adopt a unicameral parliamentary system and unspecified transitory provisions in the shift from the current presidential form of government.

Drilon and Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, dismissed the gathering of signatures for Charter amendments following mounting opposition from the Senate, the Church and other sectors.

All noise, nothing else

"Obviously this is all noise, nothing else," Drilon said in a television interview.

Gordon said that with legal barriers along the way and more groups like the El Shaddai, Cha-cha proponents were going back to the option of forcing a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

Gordon cited a statement by Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, that House leaders were now pushing for a constituent assembly despite the solid opposition of the 23 senators.

"That means that they are no longer confident about this people's initiative," Gordon said.

House can't go it alone

House leaders are insisting congressmen can do it alone, arguing that the Constitution envisions voting by the House and the Senate as one and not as separate chambers when transforming the legislature into a constituent assembly.

Gordon said the House plan would not prosper even if brought to the Supreme Court because the intent of the Constitution and the long tradition of the legislature was to have separate voting even on the simplest bills renaming barangay roads.

He said the target of Cha-cha proponents to install an interim parliament by July would not be achieved.

"They cannot do it by July. The Senate is not going to play [along]," Gordon said.

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2. 14th MCTC Ramon-San Isidro, Isabela
3. 1st MCTC Lebak-Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat
4. MTCC Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat (formerly MCTC Tacurong-Lambayong)
5. 2nd MCTC Columbio-Lutayan-President Quirino-Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat
6. 3rd MCTC Esperanza-Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat

Applications for above courts must be filed not later than May 18, 2006, addressed to:

Secretariat
Judicial and Bar Council
Second Floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598

Applicants must submit the following:

Application letter	6 copies
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1-June 1999)	6 copies
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Certificate of Good Standing of latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer	6 copies
ITR for 2 preceding years	6 copies
NBI Clearance	6 copies
Transcript of Records	6 copies
Police Clearance from Place of Residence	6 copies

The following are additional applicants for the following vacant judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC): (REGION I) – BUCAY, ABRA: (Branch 58) CABLAYAN, Elpidio C.

METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT (METC): (NCJR) – PARAÑAQUE CITY: (Branch 78) BEDAÑA, Gina Amatong; IGNACIO, Monique Quisumbing; MACABABBAD, Noemi Suavillo; MONTESA, Rainelda Estacio; TECSON, Liza Marie Picardal QUEZON CITY: (BRANCHES 35, 38 & 41) BACTAT, Theresa Cinco.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC): (REGION III) – SAN FERNANDO CITY, PAMPANGA: (Branch 4) MALIG, Merideth Delos Santos (REGION V) – IRIGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR: (Branch 1) CARIÑO, Ruvi Jean Villagomez; VALDEZ, Hazel Decena (REGION X) – SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE: (Branch 2) QUIJANO, Charina Navarro.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC): (REGION V) DARAGA ALBAY: DIZON, Evan D. (REGION VI) – LAMBUNAO, ILOILO: ESPA, Gonzalo S.; GO, Vicente Villa

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): (REGION V) – MOBO-MILAGROS MASBATE: LOGARTA, Mary Flor Tabique; SANCHEZ, Diana Tambago (REGION VII) – LA LIBERTAD-VILLAHERMOSO, NEGROS ORIENTAL: ESTOCONING, Antonio T. (REGION VIII) – MAC ARTHUR-MAYORGA, LEYTE: HILVANO, Ma. Lourdes Amascual.

The public may submit any sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against of the aforesaid applicants, not later than MAY 08, 2006, to the:

The Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
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27 April 2006

(Sgd.) **MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA**
Clerk of Court & Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI–April 28, 2006)

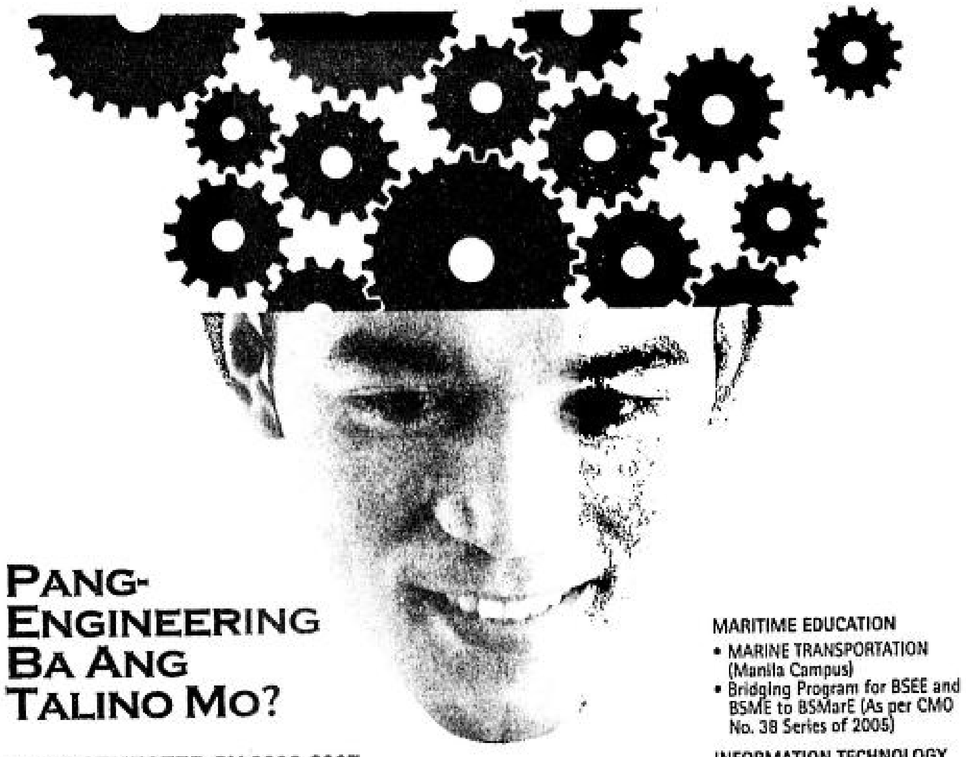
Easing of travel with minors hailed

By Leila B. Salaverria

IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER ALIPIO FERNANDEZ Jr. has hailed the Department of Social Welfare and Development's relaxation of travel restrictions on minors, saying that because of this, many passengers would be freed from inconvenience.

Fernandez said that people who travel overseas frequently with minors (below 18) stand to benefit from the new rules.

"For simplifying its rules on issuing travel clearances for minors, the DSWD's move should be welcomed and lauded especially by frequent travelers," he said in a statement.



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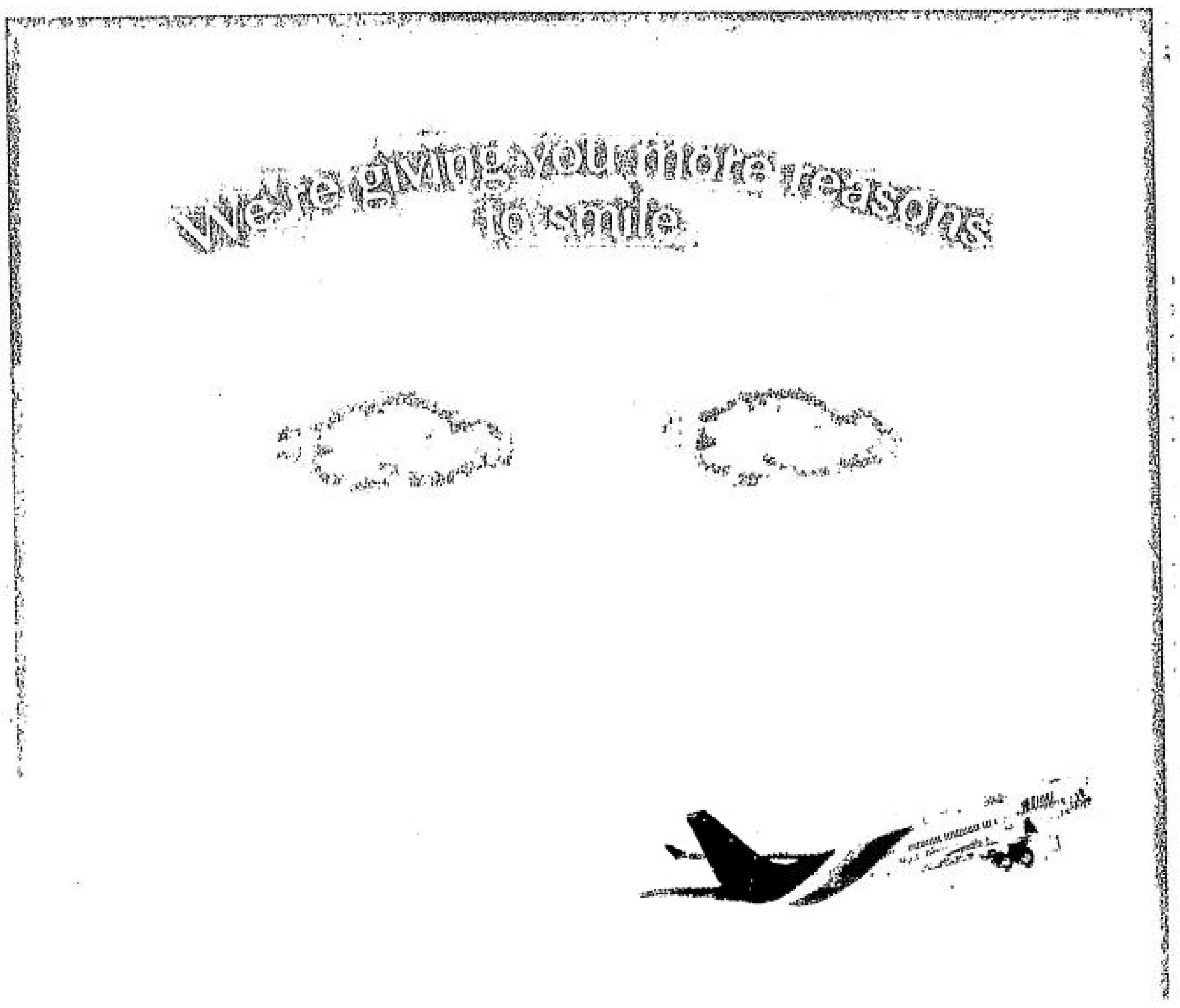
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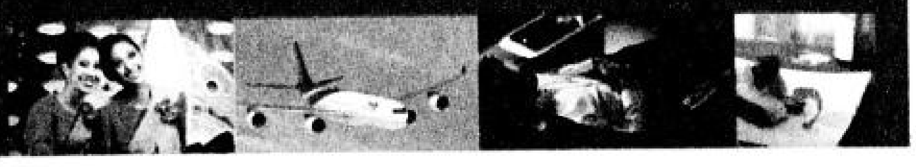

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Tan asks Sandigan to nix gov't plea on sequestration

By Nelson F. Flores

BUSINESSMAN LUCIO TAN HAS asked the Sandiganbayan to throw out a government appeal for the court to reverse an earlier ruling freeing four of his companies from sequestration by the Presidential Commission on Good government.

In a 41-page pleading filed with the court last Monday, Tan's lawyer Estelito Mendoza said the PCGG's motion for reconsideration last month should be denied outright because it failed to show there was legal basis for the 1986 sequestration of Fortune Tobacco Corp., Allied Banking Corp., Shareholdings Inc., and Foremost Farms.

"(T)he respondent (PCGG) does not point to a single piece of evidence which was before the PCGG when the writs of sequestration were issued," Mendoza said. "This should suffice to warrant a peremptory denial of respondent's Motion for Reconsideration."

Government lawyers had claimed that the process used by the PCGG in taking over Tan's firms must be respected by virtue of the presumption of regularity under the general principles of administrative law.

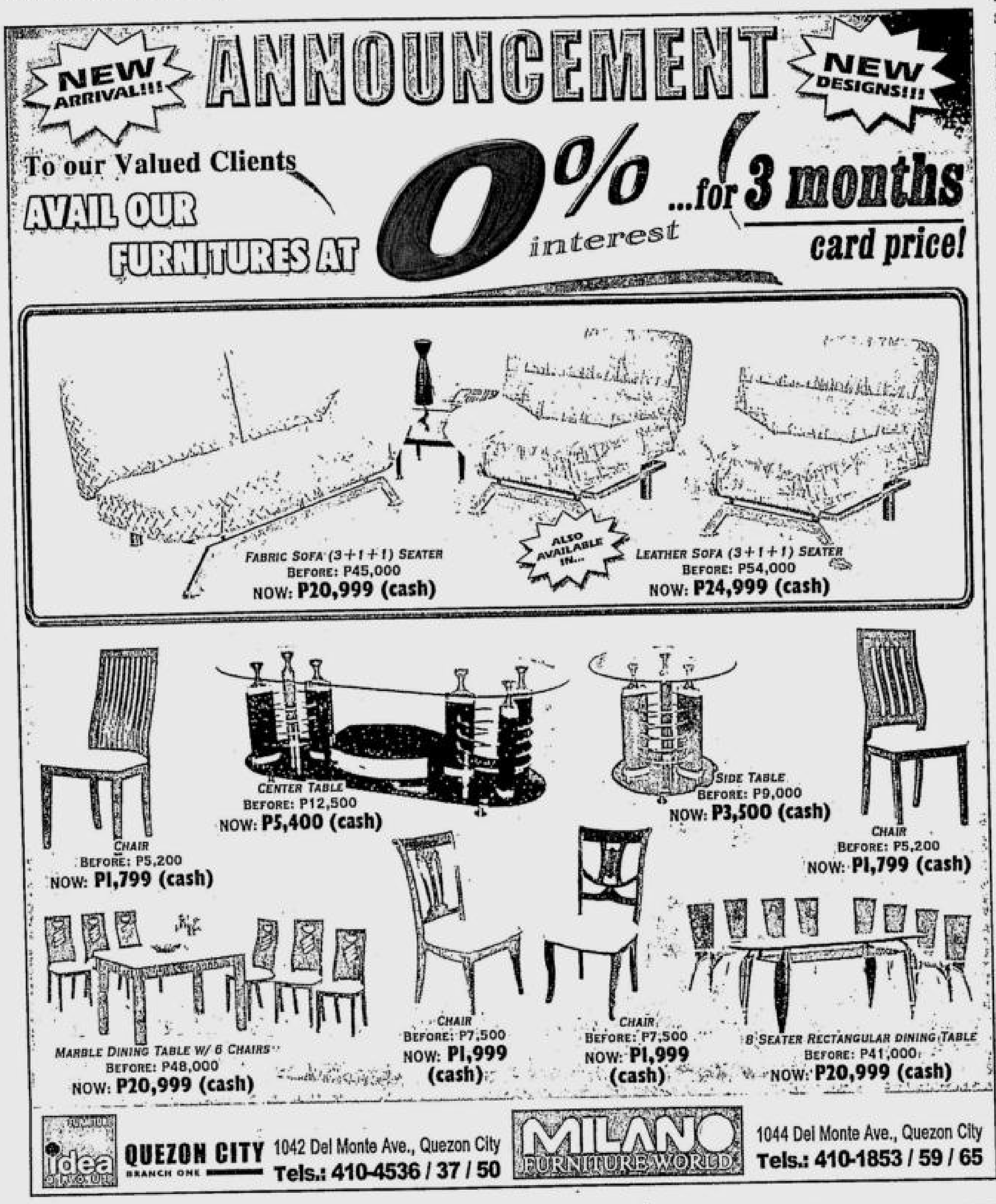
Mendoza argued that even in its own motion for reconsideration, the PCGG made an "implicit admission" that there was no basis for the sequestration of the four Tan firms. This could be found in the PCGG's acknowledgment that there was no full transcript of the minutes of the meetings that resulted in the decision to issue the writs of sequestration, he said.

"The officials (of PCGG), human beings that they are, cannot keep in their heads the basis of official action they take. Unless there is a record, the basis of official action will be subject to the frailty of human memory, and worse, will be malleable, hence may be adjusted at will to serve objectives not necessarily legitimate," Mendoza added.

"Even at this late hour, nearly 20 years after the petitioner's shares of stock were sequestered, the PCGG fails to identify any evidence before the PCGG showing that the shares of stock of the petitioners in Allied Banking Corp., Foremost Farms, Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Shareholdings Inc. were acquired with the use of public funds or originally belonged to the government," he said.

TAN

Absence of any proof that there was sufficient cause of action on the part of the government to go after Tan's properties, Mendoza said the PCGG's alternative prayer for the issuance by the court of writs of attachment against the four firms must also be denied.



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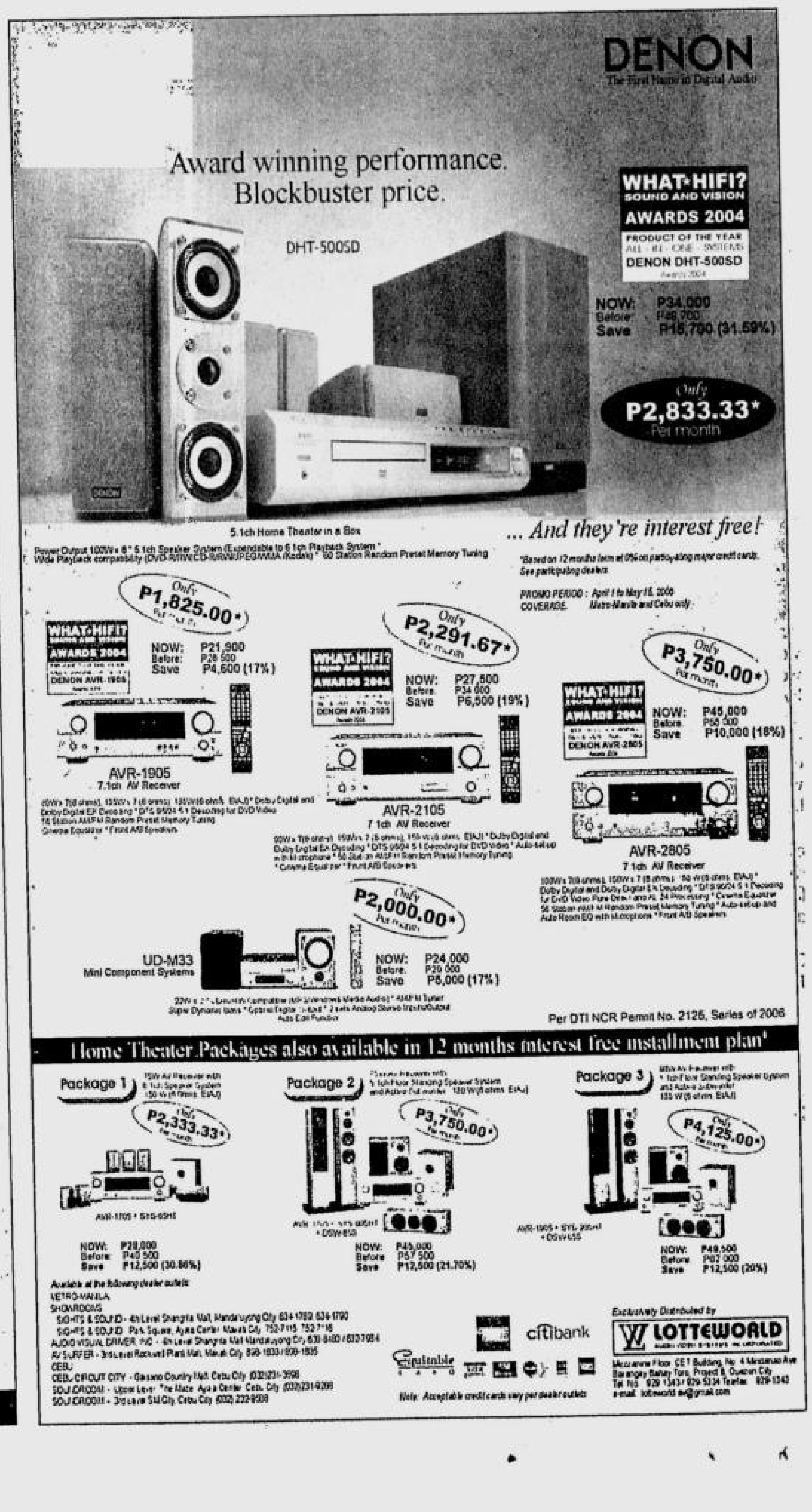

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RP, Malaysia seek ways to help Muslims

KUALA LUMPUR—MEASURES aimed at helping Muslims in the conflict-wracked southern Philippines to overcome poverty, extremism and violence topped the agenda Thursday in talks between Malaysian and Philippine government officials.

The Malaysia-Philippines Joint Commission began its first meeting since July 2004 with delegates pondering a wide range of issues including a decades-long Muslim separatist insurgency in the southern Philippines, which borders Malaysia's eastern territory on Borneo island.

"It is to our interest to see stability, prosperity and sustainable development in both the Philippines and Malaysia, as well as the region," Malaysian Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Rastam Isa said in a speech to open the two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

The delegates are expected to present proposals to Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar and his Philippine counterpart, Alberto Romulo Friday on how the countries can cooperate in socio-economic projects and to improve Islamic schools in the Muslim-dominated southern Philippines.

Malaysia has played a key role in easing volatility in the Mindanao region of the Philippines, where a ceasefire is currently in place between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's largest Muslim separatist group. *AP*

Tatad's beef vs Davide 'noted'

By TJ Burgonio

THE COMMISSION on Appointments (CA) has taken note of former Sen. Francisco Tatad's objection to the appointment of retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as ambassador to the United Nations, for purportedly being in violation of the Foreign Service Act.

"We will refer the letter of Senator Tatad to the committee on foreign relations chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago," Senate President Franklin Drilon, CA chair, said yesterday at a briefing.

Drilon, however, downplayed the chances of Tatad's opposition being upheld by the CA and advised his former colleague to take his case to the courts since it involves the interpretation of a provision of the Foreign Service Act.

Drilon recalled that Tatad had also opposed the appointment of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona as ambassador to China for the same reason—that he was over the age limit—but he was confirmed by the CA just the same.

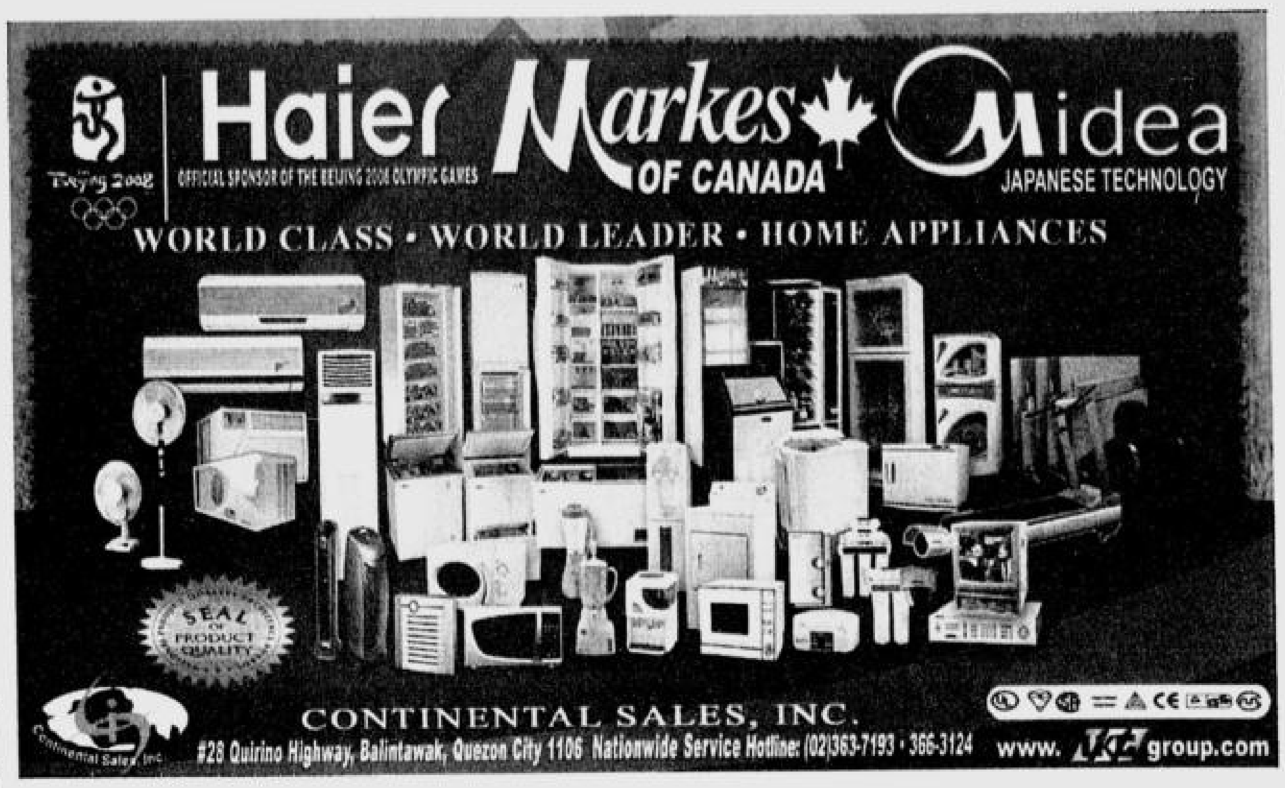
"In the case of ... Guingona, the same issue was raised. The CA voted nevertheless to confirm his appointment and made its own interpretation of the provision," Drilon said.

"I believe this is a legal issue, an interpretation of the Foreign Service Act of 1991, which would be best resolved by the courts. I urge Senator Tatad to bring this legal issue before our courts of law where a decision can be made," Drilon said.

Guingona later declined the ambassadorship after he had a falling out with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tatad, chair of the Citizens vs Corruption Task Force, had written Drilon on April 24 to point out that if the CA approved Davide's appointment, the Foreign Service Act "would be flagrantly violated."

Davide, who retired as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in December last year at the age of 70, was not eligible to be an ambassador because the Foreign Service Act states that no non-career individual, 70 years or above, may be appointed chief of mission after June 30, 1992, Tatad had said.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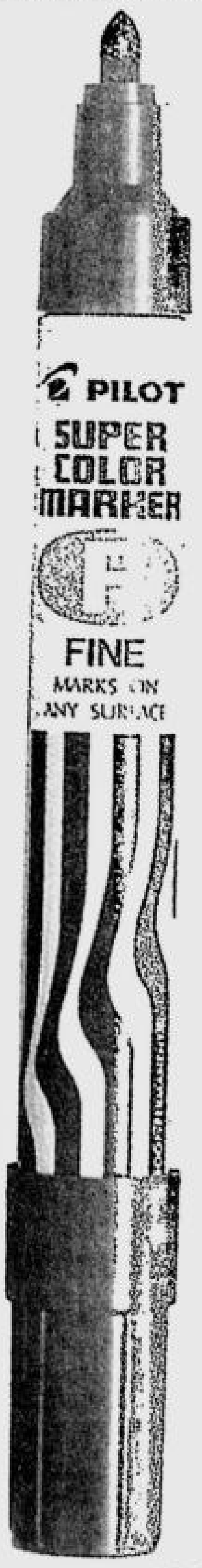

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Senga affirms general's conviction

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER NEARLY FIVE MONTHS OF REVIEW, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga has finally approved the sentence handed down by a military court on former Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia last Dec. 2.

Garcia, the first general to be convicted by a court-martial, was found guilty of unexplained wealth while he was the AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership, a position that was abolished because of his case.

He was sentenced to two years' confinement at hard labor and was dishonorably discharged from the service with all retirement benefits forfeited.

Garcia's sentence is however still far from final.

The case has been pending in Senga's office for approval since Dec. 2, 2005. Senga approved the court-martial's verdict only on Wednesday, according to a spokesperson.

AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado merely shrugged off observations that the review had taken too long.

"We cannot do anything about that because that is the process," he said.

Senga's approval will be submitted to the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) for evaluation to be conducted by a Board of Review composed of three senior JAGO officers.

Afterwards, Malacañang will again review the case. The ruling will only be fully executed once it is approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

There is no deadline to finish the entire review.

"That is the process of the general court-martial so we don't want to shortcut it. We would like to respect the rights of the accused," Honrado said in a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Garcia will remain confined at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center until Oct. 18 when he finishes his two-year sentence, said Honrado.

Garcia has been detained since Oct. 18, 2004 after his sons were caught in an airport in San Francisco, California with $100,000 in undeclared cash.

He was arraigned on Nov. 16, 2004, two days before his mandatory retirement.

The Sandiganbayan which is currently trying Garcia for plunder and perjury, will take custody of the former general after Oct. 18, according to JAGO officer in charge Col. Caridad Aguilar.

"He will be released from confinement as far as the AFP is concerned. Technically he will be released but considering that he has a pending case before the Sandiganbayan he may not be released," Aguilar said.

"Right now he is already serving [his] sentence and the period [of his confinement] will be credited to him... The 'hard labor' will probably take place after the sentence has been finally approved by the President," she added.

She defined hard labor as "doing menial jobs." "He will be treated just like an ordinary prisoner," she said.

Honrado said the "hard labor" provision referred to in the outmoded 1938 Articles of War no longer applies. *With Mary Ann Ranola*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 28, 2006
2nd Week of Easter
Peter Chanel/Louis Mary de Montfort

1st Reading:	**Acts 5:34-42**
Gospel:	**John 6:1-15**

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, near Tiberias, and large crowds followed him because of the miraculous signs they saw when he healed the sick. So he went up into the hills and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

Then lifting up his eyes, Jesus saw the crowds that were coming to him and said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread so that these people may eat?" He said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred silver coins would not buy enough bread for each of them to have a piece."

Then one of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there so the people, about five thousand men, sat down to rest. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish and gave them as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten enough, he told his disciples, "Gather up the pieces left over, that nothing may be lost."

So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with bread, that is with pieces of the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

When the people saw this sign that Jesus had just given, they said, "This is really the Prophet, he who is to come into the world." Jesus realized that they would come and take him by force to make him king; so he fled to the hills by himself.

Commentary

In court again, someone speaks clearly telling them to leave the apostles alone because if they are of God, from God, then they will not be able to destroy them without fighting God himself. If not, it will die of its own accord. And they leave in joy, to teach again. They are imitating Jesus who worked ceaselessly among the crowds teaching, bringing the good news of hope, healing, touching people and feeding them from the food one young boy brought with him. They were told and now they obey: to feed the crowds, and collect the leftovers, imitating Jesus. They feed now, in word and bread of hope.

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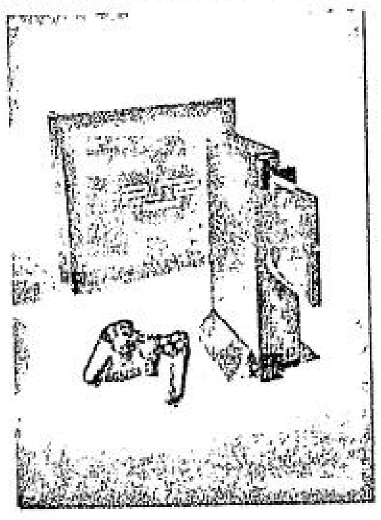

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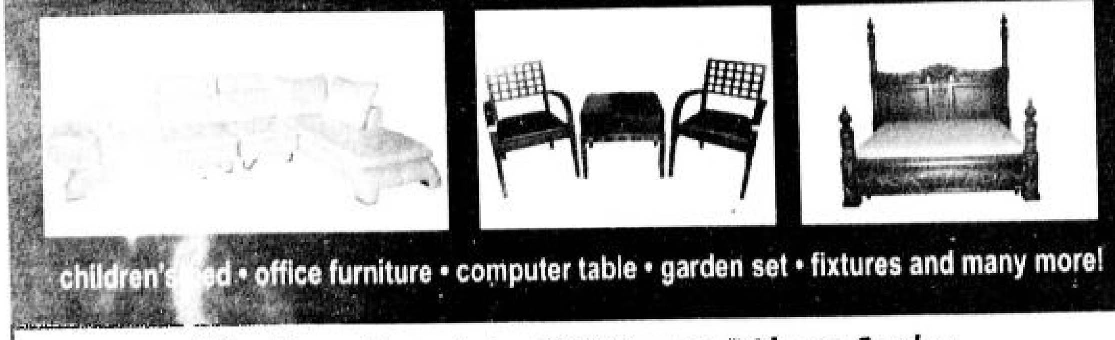

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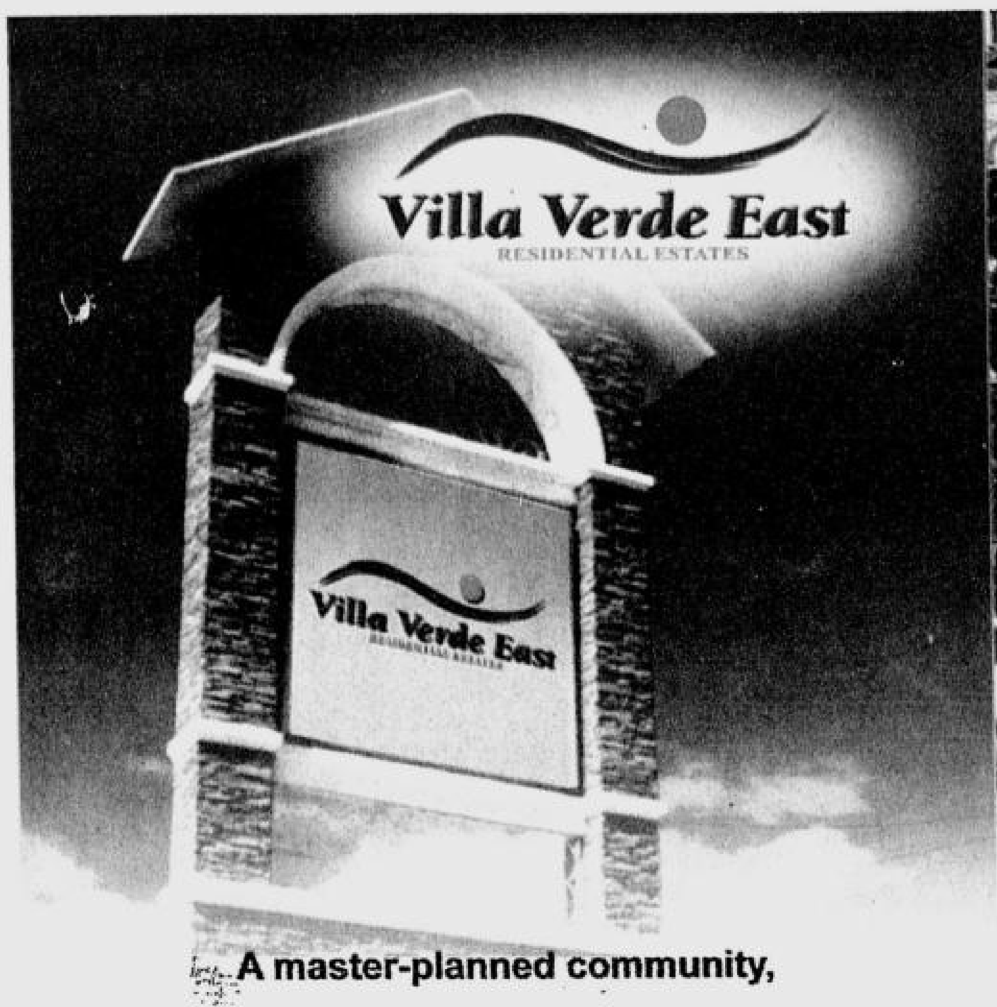

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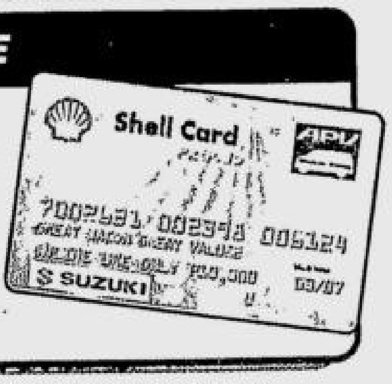

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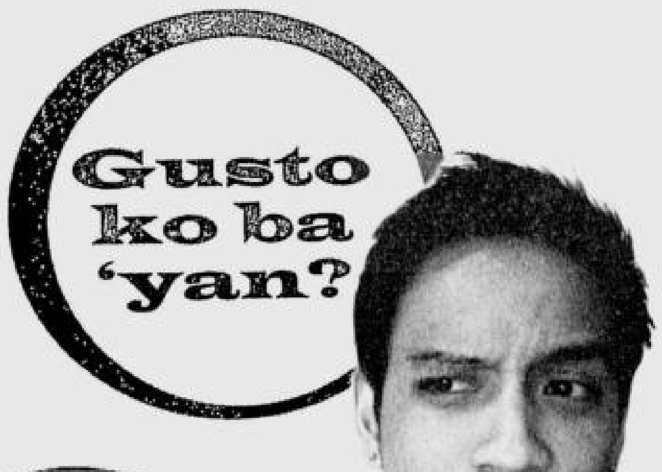
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Ang Parliament ang gaganap ng katungkulan ng executive at legislative branches. Sila na ang taga-gawa ng batas, sila pa rin ang magpapatakbo ng mga programa ng gobyerno. E di mawawalan ng check and balance?

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SGV, PAGC sign deal to boost anti-graft drive

THE PRESIDENTIAL Antigraft Commission (PAGC) and SyCip Gorres Velayo and Co. (SGV) have signed a contract that will strengthen internal audit units (IAU) of government agencies and ensure better governance in the bureaucracy.

The contract, according to a PAGC press statement, is part of a $300,000 project funded by the World Bank, through a grant from its Institutional Development Fund (IDF).

PAGC chair Constancia P. de Guzman and Rebecca G. Sarmenta, partner, Risk and Technology Services of SGV & Co, signed the contract with Chris Hoban, World Bank's acting country director and portfolio manager, witnessing the signing ceremony.

The World Bank grant will help internal audit units of government agencies to perform their functions in conformity with international standards for the professional practice of internal auditing, the PAGC statement said. With the establishment of adequate and effective internal controls particularly in the procurement process, opportunities for corruption will be reduced, it said.

"The signing of the contract with SGV is a key milestone in the implementation of this project as it is the biggest component," De Guzman said. "This contract will upgrade the quality of internal audit, a major ingredient in making sure that better governance is practiced in all government agencies."

The project will cover 11 national government agencies, one constitutional body and three local government units.

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May 20, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
May 27, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
June 3, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
B. DIPLOMA PROGRAM IN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT
• PRINCIPLES OF LOGISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION MGT.
May 13, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• MODERN PURCHASING OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT
May 20, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• TRANSPORTATION AND CARRIER MANAGEMENT
May 27, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• CUSTOMER SERVICE AND LOGISTICS: CUSTOMER CARE AND TECHNIQUES
June 3, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
C. REGULAR PROGRAMS & LEARNING SESSIONS
• ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANT
May 6 - June 3, 2006 Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
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May 6, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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• SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING
May 8 - 19, 2006 M-W-F 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
• PROJECT MANAGEMENT
May 13 - 27, 2006 Saturday 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
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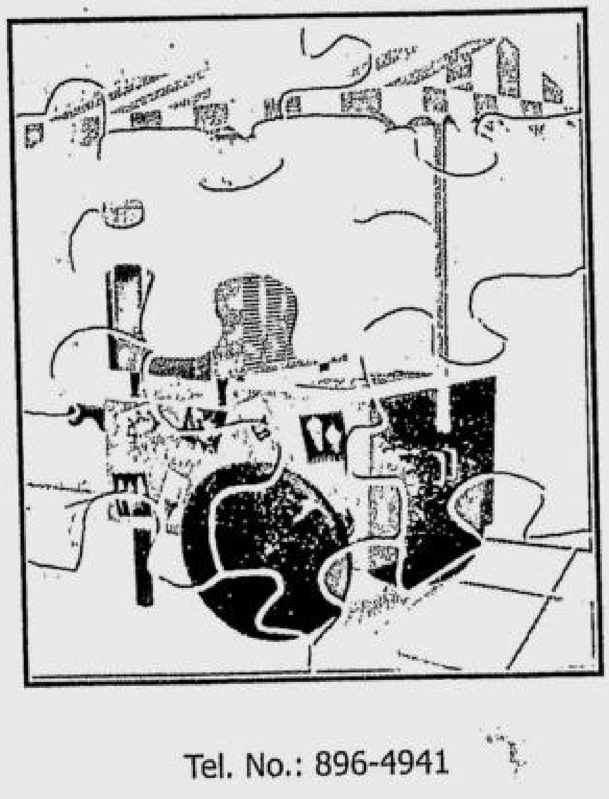

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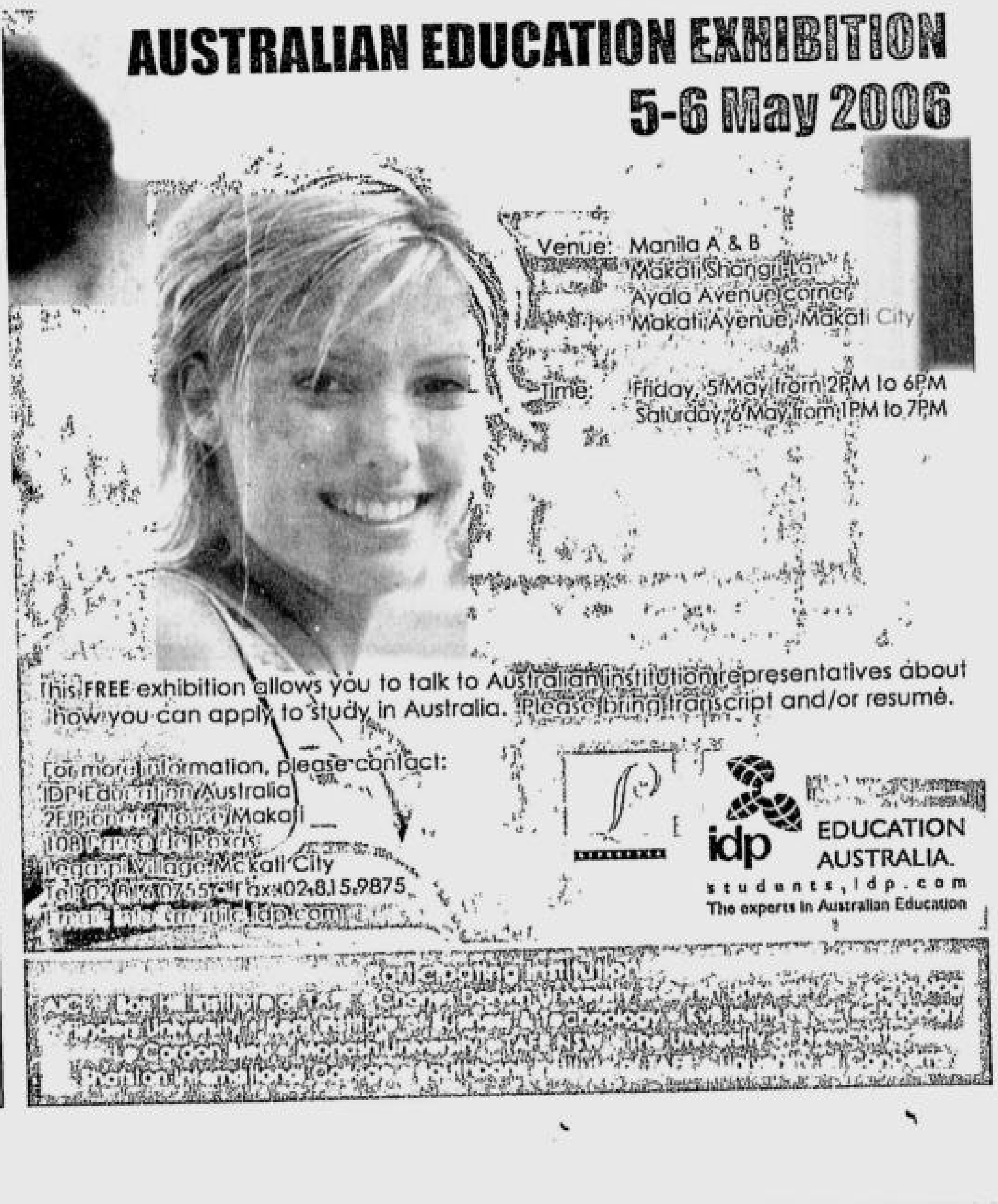

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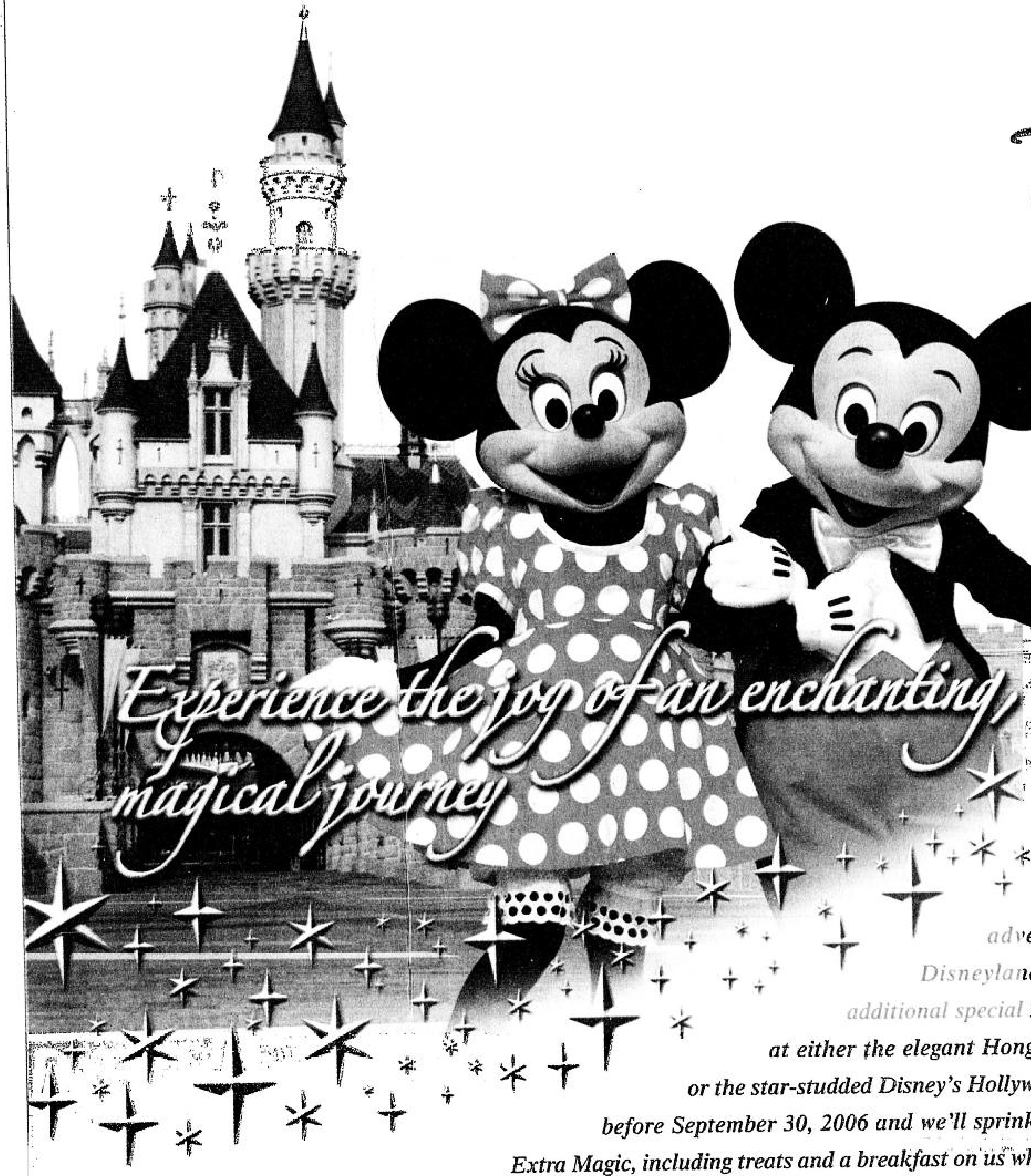

Create magical memories with a fantastic, whimsical adventure to Hong Kong Disneyland. Give your trip that additional special Disney touch with a stay at either the elegant Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or the star-studded Disney's Hollywood Hotel. Visit the Park before September 30, 2006 and we'll sprinkle you with some special Extra Magic, including treats and a breakfast on us when you stay at our hotels!

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Join in the spectacular Disney On Parade, featuring colourful dancers, lively marching bands and all your favourite Disney friends. Then get caught up in the excitement of the Golden Mickeys, a glitzy musical extravaganza featuring amazing performances from Disney classics. Simba and friends will also put on a scintillating display of singing and dancing in the amazing Festival Of The Lion King show. If that weren't enough, you'll think you're in a dream as you have all of your senses tickled in the unbelievable Philharmagic experience. Visitors can then cap off their day with the stunning Disney in the Stars fireworks display that will illuminate the night sky.

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Thrill yourself with a ride at warp speed through the far reaches of the galaxy in Space Mountain or help Buzz Lightyear save the day on Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters in futuristic Tomorrowland! Whether you want to fly high in the air with Dumbo, or spin to your heart's content in the Mad Hatter's Tea Cups, it's all waiting for you in fantastic Fantasyland. The more intrepid can take a cruise down a wild jungle river, explore Tarzan's Treehouse or create exotic drumbeats in the mysterious realm of Adventureland.

To catch your breath after all the excitement, enjoy a nostalgic and leisurely trip from Main Street USA to Town Square by Paddy Wagon or Main Street Taxi before meeting your beloved Disney friends.

TIP A Fastpass service is available for most attractions in the park and means you can maximize your fun without the hassle of queuing!

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HONG KONG
LAND

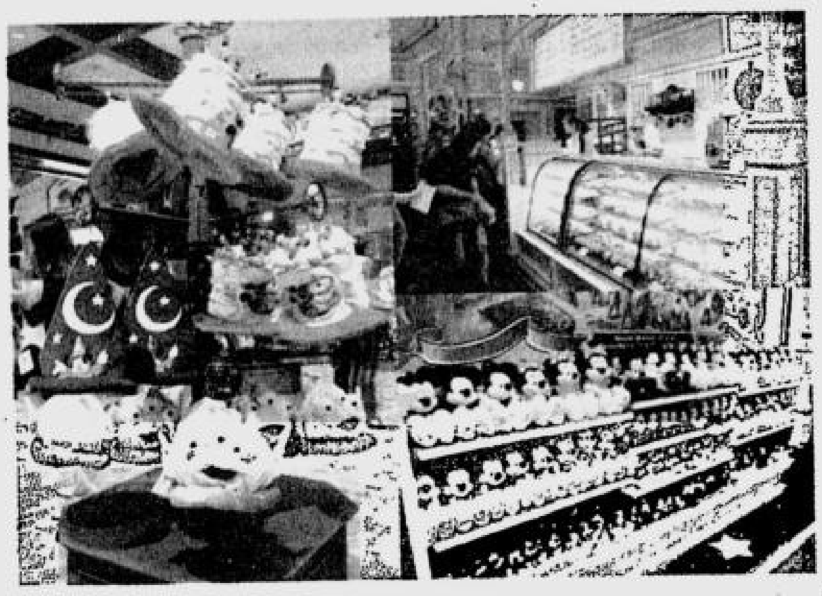
A galaxy of food and souvenirs to choose from!

Each area of the park has colorful themed restaurants, meaning you can fill your amazing journey with delicious treats all day long! Try some delectable Chinese dishes at the Plaza Inn, international fare at the Royal Banquet Hall, mouth-watering South Asian cuisine at the Tahitian Terrace, or a roast pork burger, exclusive to Hong Kong Disneyland, at the Starliner Diner.

When you've had your fill of the sumptuous food, head to one of the many stores dotted around the park to select a few fun Disney souvenirs to take home. Choose from a wide variety of space age accessories at Space Traders, have your likeness artfully crafted before your eyes at the Silhouette Shop or pick up a magical trinket from Merlin's Treasures. Guests can also have their photos taken by professional photographers and then have them printed at Town Square Photo.

Tip

Make your Mickey Mouse Ear Hat unique by having your name embroidered on it!



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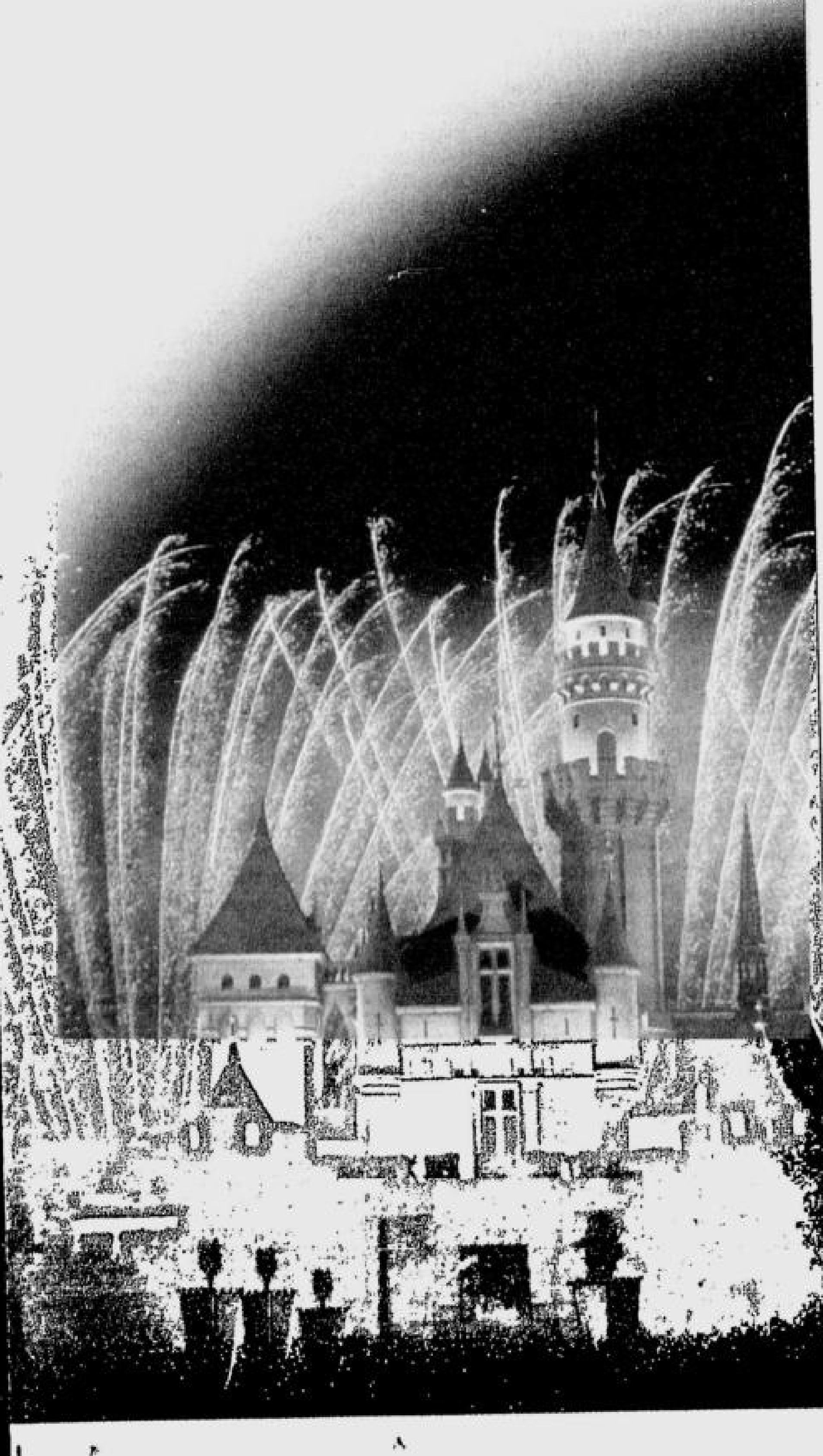
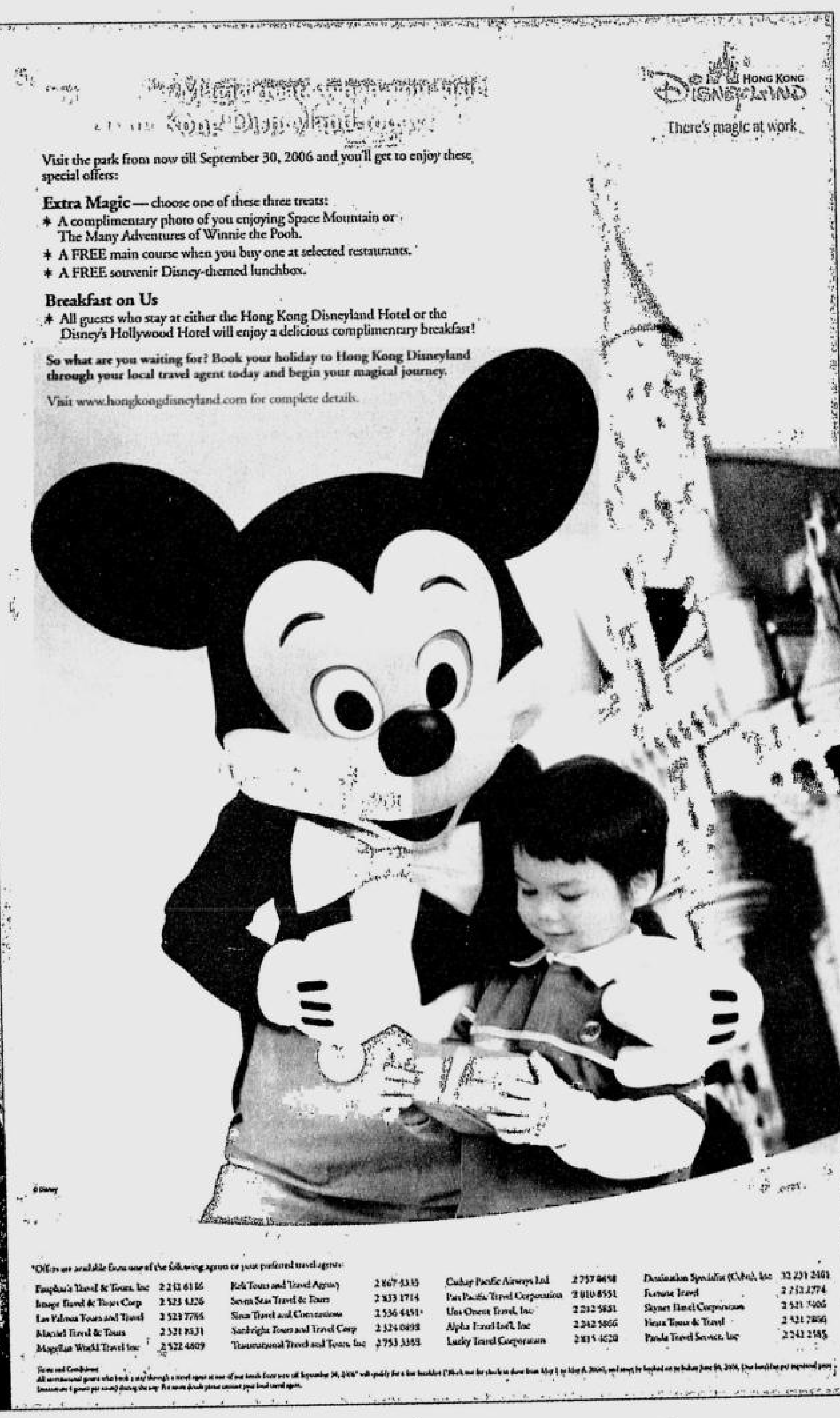
Experience even more Disney magic by checking in to one of our two imaginatively themed Disneyland hotels. Splash around with Goofy in the piano-shaped pool or enjoy movies and popcorn with your favorite Disney friends at the glittering Disney's Hollywood Hotel. If relaxation is top of your agenda, luxuriate in the Victorian Spa at the elegant Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or unwind with Mickey and friends over breakfast in the beautiful Enchanted Garden.

Visit the park between now and September 30, 2006 and you can experience some fantastic Extra Magic offers. So what are you waiting for? Book your holiday to Hong Kong Disneyland through your local travel agent today and begin your magical journey.





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Extra Magic — choose one of these three treats:

- A complimentary photo of you enjoying Space Mountain or The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh.
- A FREE main course when you buy one at selected restaurants.
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Breakfast on Us

- All guests who stay at either the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or the Disney's Hollywood Hotel will enjoy a delicious complimentary breakfast!

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OPINION

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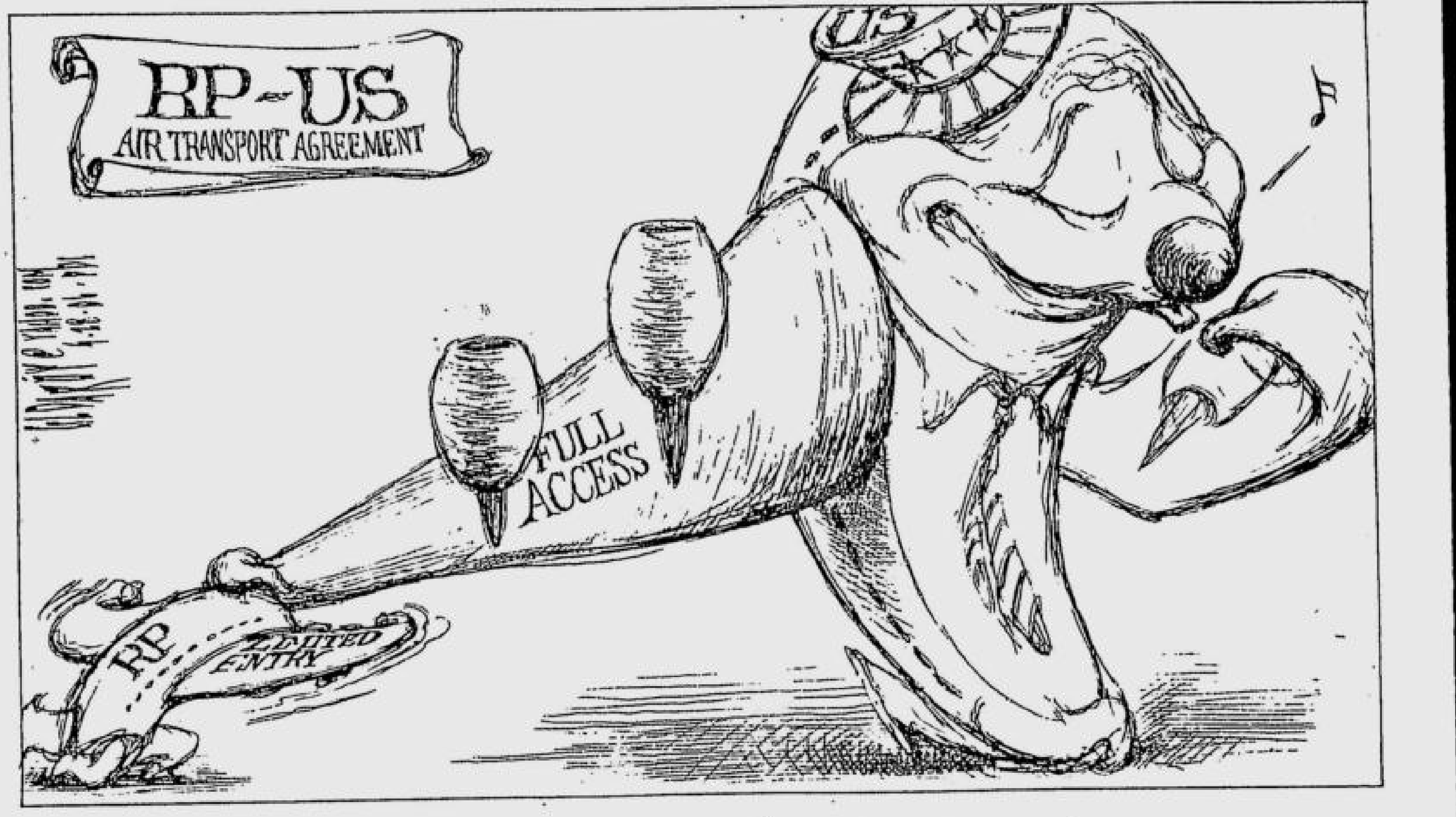


Consequences

EDITORIAL

ALL PRESIDENTS ARE DEPENDENT ON ADVISERS, though not all of them are ruled by them. Every advice requires consent to become policy; and while loyalty is considered a political virtue, an argument can be made that blind loyalty isn't always a good thing.

Two recent decisions issued by the Supreme Court—on the constitutionality of Executive Order 464 and on the administration's Calibrated Preemptive Response—bring the advice, the advisers, the President's reliance on them and the manner they serve the chief executive to the fore. Being an economist and not a lawyer, it is reasonable to assume that President Macapagal-Arroyo presented her Cabinet with two political imperatives: the first being the need to prevent an orgy of damaging testimony by executive officials in the legislature, and the second, preventing the possibility of a critical mass being reached by demonstrators in the streets. The militarists in the Cabinet would have proposed the use of force. The lawyers would have then stepped up to provide a justification for it and legal strategies to harness the powers of supervision and command of the presidency over the bureaucracy. Hence, the drafting of EO 464 and the announcement that CPR was replacing "maximum tolerance" as the guiding principle in handling protest actions.

Faced with a menu of legal options, and ideally having been briefed on the legal (never mind moral) and political pros and cons of the proposed legal strategies, the President would then have decided whether to adopt them or not. She did, and so she signed EO 464 and authorized CPR to be announced and applied.

Those who disagreed with the President's decisions questioned them before the Supreme Court. And the Court, in its two recent decisions, has voided parts of EO 464 and ordered CPR abandoned in favor of a return to the more widely understood and accepted policy of "maximum tolerance."

This means that the President received advice that was flawed, and further, that she was provided with legal strategies that violated the Constitution. It is possible for her to claim she acted in good faith, and that mercifully, the constitutional order saved the day, through the Supreme Court's stepping in to clear up matters. That is well and good, but should the Filipino people leave it at that?

They should not. The President's decisions raised the specter of an increasing authoritarian streak and a disregard of established policies and precedents, in favor of an aggressive effort to extend the scope and reach of the presidency's already vast powers. Such disdain for established policies and precedents was publicly and clearly rejected by the Court as incompatible with our democratic and republican system. Those who advised the President to do what she did—and whose judgment has been revealed as not only flawed, but dangerous—therefore did not only serve her badly but did the country a great disservice.

Since the President and her Cabinet have been touting the benefits of parliamentary government, it is useful to consider that if we were under a parliamentary system, the probability is high that a government faced with a legal reversal on par with that suffered by the President would have fallen. Then a general election would have followed, or the Constitution would have been amended. At the very least, an epidemic of resignations would have been triggered.

Instead, we have the presidential legal advisers, the justice secretary and the solicitor general behaving like the proverbial three monkeys that see, hear and say no evil. It is as if the Supreme Court hadn't voided the things these officials and the coterie of lawyers who work for the President cooked up. It is as if what the decisions say—that unconstitutional orders have been given and executed—should be of no significance.

Clearly, no principle of accountability—either to the President or the people—exists. The President herself seems to be not even one bit bothered by what the Court has decided, and sees no reason to make even a token show of remorse, or at least, compensation for having authorized what she had no authority to approve. There are no consequences. A child would be punished for taking a cookie without permission. But for giving bad legal advice and thereby making her commit unconstitutional acts, the President's legal advisers are getting not even the mildest reprimand.

What motivates the GMA gov't

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE IS ONE FIVE-LETTER WORD THAT describes the motivation of the Arroyo administration: MONEY. Everything is about acquiring money—plenty of it. Morals, manners, ethics, justice and self-respect are exchanged for money.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) is pursuing a compromise agreement with the Marcoses in which all the charges against them would be dropped in exchange for a portion of their ill-gotten wealth. I don't care about justice, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said in effect, I care about how much money we can get for the government.

The PCGG has had so many commissioners and never had it sunk so low as now. This prompted the first PCGG chair, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, to write to President Macapagal-Arroyo protesting any compromise agreement with the Marcoses as well as with Danding Cojuangco, San Miguel Corp. chair.

It seems that Abcede is also pursuing a compromise agreement with Cojuangco on the coco levy funds in spite of two Supreme Court decisions on the levy and Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases barring any compromise agreement.

At the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, it is also big money that is being given priority over good manners. The PCSO is pushing Small Town Lottery—the same outlawed *jueteng* with a new collar—in cities and towns that do not want it. The PCSO's justification is that STL would earn plenty of money for "charity," but it doesn't mention the old jueteng lords now masquerading as the new operators of STL.

Because of this, the PCSO has lost its old image as a magnanimous, charitable institution and gained a new one: that of a co-conspirator of money-grabbing gambling lords.

On the escalating price of oil that is making the inflation rate shoot up and bringing untold hardships to everybody, the administration initially agreed to lift the VAT and the import tariff on oil to cushion the impact of rising world crude prices. Less than 24 hours later, it made a complete turnaround: it is now against the lifting of the VAT. The government would lose so much money, it said. Never mind if the people will suffer, the government's income must not suffer.

Money, indeed, is the root of all evil. The government needs a lot of money to fund a lot of its evil deeds: the Cha-cha, the pork barrel, bribes for pro-government witnesses in investigations, money to fund GMA's frequent trips inside and outside the country, bribes in the form of housing to soldiers, bribes to lawbreakers such as squatters, etc.

Bribe—that is another five-letter word that moves this government.

* * *

The heckling that President Macapagal-Arroyo experienced at the graduation ceremonies of the Cavite State University is nothing compared to what people say behind her back.

"*Patalsikin si* Gloria!" is already on everybody's lips, including those of children. The heckling by a student leader should open her eyes to the truth that she is so much disliked that even students would not hesitate to say to her face that she is no longer wanted.

Presidents are always separated from reality, surrounded by her appointees and sycophants who do nothing but sing praises to her. Even when she mingles with the common people, she doesn't get the real feeling of the people. People smile and giggle when they shake hands with her, but that's not how they feel inside their hearts.

Now she knows.

* * *

Journalist Floro Mercene has just finished writing a book on the migration of Filipinos to Mexico and the Americas from the 16th century onward. The book, "Manila Men in the New World," is being published by the University of the Philippines Press.

Filipino migration to the New World was facilitated by the galleon trade, which began in 1570 and ended in 1815. The crew of the Manila galleons were mostly Filipinos, especially toward its closing days. Mercene's book recaptures the fate of those sailors who elected to remain in America, estimated at 20,000 to 30,000. Their descendants may be found today on the Pacific coastal states of Mexico. The oldest Filipino colony in the United States may be found in New Orleans, and it dates back to 1763.

While the British were occupying Manila in 1762, a Filipino immigrant was building two caravels for the Jesuit mission in Baja, California. Descendants of Filipinos took part in Mexico's fight for independence in 1810. When pirates from South America occupied California in 1818, there were Filipinos among them. There was a small Filipino colony outside San Francisco during the California Gold Rush in 1849. And when the American Civil War broke out in 1863, there were Filipinos who enlisted in the Union Army, according to Mercene's book, which is coming off the press this July.

* * *

The contest for the NVM Gonzalez Awards for the best short story and the best essay of the year is now open.

Entries should have been published during the period from September 2005 to September 2006 in reputable magazines and journals. Six copies of the short story and/or essay under a pseudonym should be submitted to Cezhel C. Macatangay at 63 Gomburza St., Area 1, UP Diliman, QC 1101. It should be accompanied with a sealed envelop containing a copy of the original work where it was published, and a short bio-data and recent photograph of the author.

The deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 15, 2006. For inquiries, e-mail nvmink@yahoo.com

Constitutional choices

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

HARVARD PROF. LAWRENCE TRIBE ENTITLED his book "Constitutional Choices." Court decisions are not the products of logic alone, he says, as if legal conclusions flow inexorably from hard doctrine. No, they result from conscious moral choices, a deliberate preference among several, equally tenable legal options.

In the recent Supreme Court decision chastising the government for its gung-ho dispersal of protesters, I look at those options and ask, "What if?"

The clincher in the Court's decision is not that the "calibrated preemptive response" to rallies is wrong or that Batas Pambansa 880, the Public Assembly Act, is valid. Rather it is Justice Adolf Azcuna's coup de grâce that unless local governments soon designate freedom parks where people can protest without permit, all public parks and plazas shall be deemed freedom parks where "no prior permit of whatever kind shall be required." In American law, they call that the "complex injunction."

The Court is right: CPR is a problem. The elected Congress declares a binding policy of "maximum tolerance," and then the unelected executive secretary says, "The rule of [CPR] is now in force, in lieu of maximum tolerance."

So a new rule replaced the old? Not quite, Secretary Eduardo Ermita says, CPR is just "a new catchword." But the Court didn't buy it: "It merely confuses our people and is used by some police agents to justify abuses." In plain words, go tell it to the Marines (but let's wait while they take a vote!).

The Court is right: BP 880 is not a problem—rallies are always subject to "time, place and manner" regulations. The law says it is the "duty" of the mayor to grant permits. He may not deny but only reschedule, relocate, regulate. But refuse? Only when the rally poses a clear and present danger.

The petitioners said that any permit requirement is a prior restraint. That is wrong doctrine, the Court rightly said. Prior restraint is prohibited, true. But that applies to "pure speech," while protest rallies are "speech plus"—that is, speech (which is highly protected) combined with non-speech elements like traffic, noise or disruption (which are not).

And then came Azcuna's coup. In 1985, BP 880 told the mayors to carve out public spaces where people can protest freely. Because the liberty of assembly is guaranteed, a permit requirement is valid only if a permit-free, alternative venue is available. Yet, Azcuna noted, after 21 years, only one freedom park reportedly exists in the archipelago: Fuente Osmeña in Cebu. Local governments twisted the law by simply sitting on it (which was, in his words, "pathetic and regrettable"). Thus, the Court took "one step further in safeguarding liberty." It gave the local governments 30 days to designate their freedom parks, otherwise, all their parks and plazas become off-limits to anti-riot squads. Just to rub it in, he added that the only requirement would be prior notice to the mayor. Dinky Soliman can walk up to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and say, "I will promenade on the boardwalk, and I'm not asking, I'm telling you!"

But what if, instead of the complex injunction, the Court had stuck to old school ways and simply ordered all mayors to designate freedom parks? After 21 years, you think a judicial "follow-up" will make a difference? Indeed, would that have been proper? Congress gave no deadline, and now the Court will, on its own? Yet by the magic of the complex injunction, the Court effectively fixed a D-Day without usurping a congressional power. The Court chose to do the smart thing.

And what if the Court had struck down BP 880 altogether because the delicate balance in BP 880 had been tilted against the Bill of Rights? Unthinkable? But the Court did exactly that, when the great Jose P. Laurel found a way to strike down an old probation law, saying it depended on budget allocations by local governments and therefore, if one province allocated money and another didn't, probation will be available to some and not to others, a violation of the equal protection of the law. In this case, Cebuanos can rally at Fuente Osmeña but Manilans can't sashay at the boardwalk. That's a double whammy, against both free speech and equal protection—two constitutional breaches in one blow. That calls for "strict scrutiny"—strict and always fatal. The Court was just being kind.

What if the Court had instead relied on the "public forum" exception in constitutional law? It says that even innocent "time, place and manner" regulations are forbidden for rallies held in a "public forum." The Court recalled the classic lines: "[S]treets and parks … have immemorially been held in trust for the use of the public and, time out of mind, have been used for purposes of assembly … and discussing public questions." The argument would go: Without freedom parks, permits are required even in public forums like Plaza Miranda or Mendiola Bridge. The Court was just being kind.

Finally, what if the justices had chosen to look beyond the words? Sure, I understand, jurisdictional rules may bar that, but what if they had seen how rallies were actually dispersed? Truncheons swung against citizens by the policemen whose salaries we pay. Civilians bullied and bloodied by the armed "protectors of the people." Police out of uniform and without name tags, contrary to the safeguards of BP 880. Or once, a handful of lolos and lolas marching on Mendiola, bodily lifted as clear and present threats to national security.

Bob Dylan asked: "How many years can some people exist, before they're allowed to be free? How many times can a man turn his head, and pretend that he just doesn't see? … How many ears must one man have, before he can hear people cry?"

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A tendency to make enemies

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

A SMALL POLITICAL TEMPEST IS BLOWING over the heckling President Macapagal-Arroyo got on April 21 from a graduating student at the Cavite State University. The incident should have been dismissed as one of the occupational risks of the presidency, but it is being blown up to significance by firstly, the overreaction of the administration, and secondly, by the attempts of some of the President's enemies to score political points.

It was most probably farthest from the mind of Maria Theresa Pangilinan that she would walk into a controversy with her audacious act. But now she has become a political football. The administration added fuel to the fire when the Indang police filed a complaint of alarm and scandal against Pangilinan and another graduate as well as members of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers who used the graduation ceremony as an occasion to stage a protest against the President. An overzealous justice secretary made things worse by directing the National Bureau of Investigation to investigate Pangilinan.

The controversy started when Pangilinan, who was to receive her diploma from the President, stood up as the President was making a speech, unfurled a banner saying "No to Cha-cha," and shouted, "*Patalsikin si* Gloria!" At the same time, a group of protesters from the left-leaning Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Solidarity of Cavite Workers raised red streamers calling on the President to step down. The President's security men confiscated the banner from Pangilinan, and hustled out the group of other protesters. But Pangilinan was not prevented from marching up the stage to receive her diploma.

While it seems clear that Pangilinan's outburst was not a spontaneous act, the worst offense that can be laid against her is disrespect and rudeness to the President. The latter could have just ignored it and kept her dignity, but her minions took offense at her embarrassment and magnified the incident as something meriting state concern.

The threats of prosecution made by the justice secretary were sufficient to provoke the President's critics to turn the case into a political issue. Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said embarrassing the President was not a crime. Senate President Franklin Drilon made "freedom of expression" an issue, saying Pangilinan was merely expressing a grievance against the President and voicing the truth when she called her a "fake president." Drilon said Pangilinan was "just a student and every Filipino has a right to expressed his or her sentiment." Sen. Panfilo Lacson joined the two senators in rebuking the justice secretary for "unleashing" the NBI on Pangilinan.

Pangilinan said she did not regret her act. However, she had her own political spin. "What I did was a political exercise guaranteed by the Constitution," she said. "What I did was to stand for what many Filipinos believe is the truth: that (Ms Arroyo) cheated to win the presidency."

Pangilinan further said that she was not afraid to face any investigation." And ringing with self-righteousness, she added, "I am not like Ms Arroyo who needed to use her allies in Congress to block her impeachment and hide the truth."

From her statements, Pangilinan has made political judgments on the impeachment case and the "truth" about the allegations that the President "cheated to win the presidency."

When Pangilinan heckled the President, what was at issue was not her right to express her views on important public matters. No one can dispute her right to do so. It may however be asked whether the heckling had confirmed her perceived version of the "truth" and whether it brought us nearer to the "truth" about the cheating. If it did not, what purpose did the heckling serve, except to show some lapses in good manners and courtesy?

Nevertheless, such lapses do not justify the government's bearing down on a disrespectful person with the full force of its powers. The heavy-handed response of the administration highlights its propensity to create more enemies than it needs and to make martyrs out of citizens who happen to hold beliefs that contradict those of the administration.

This tendency started to crystallize during the declaration of a national emergency last March, when the President cracked down on the press with the raids on editorial offices of newspapers and radio-TV stations critical to the administration. The crackdown made out the media as the foremost enemy of the state rather than the military officers who actually tried to stage a coup d'etat. In doing so, the administration fabricated and imagined enemies which were not really its enemies. The President's battle with the media has been unnecessary. It's a wasteful expenditure of national energy, since the media were not really the source of her political problems.

In the Indang fiasco, the administration is repeating the error of wrong identification of enemies in Proclamation No. 1017. It should reserve its heavy artillery for more life-threatening challenges rather than on protests staged by hecklers whose claim to being remembered as heroic figures standing up for good government is grounded on their landing on the front pages of yesterday's newspapers. The administration has more to worry about from the challenges arising from the implementation of two recent Supreme Court decisions on EO 464 and on its Calibrated Preemptive Response policy.

Defense fund for 'Nicole'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PREVIOUSLY IN THIS COLUMN, I'D WRITTEN about a fund-raising campaign in support of "Nicole," the name by which the accuser in the so-called "Subic rape case" has chosen to be known by. The campaign, which has since been dubbed the "Nicole Defense Fund," is led by TOWNS, an organization of outstanding women cited for their individual accomplishments as well as their contributions to nation building.

Two TOWNS women are intimately involved in Nicole's case: her lawyer Evalyn Ursua and Dr. June Pagaduan Lopez, who is helping Nicole and her family with psycho-social counseling and support. But that's not the only reason TOWNS members have chosen to support Nicole. As the TOWNS statement, which I am reprinting in full below, declares, rape is the "ultimate violation of a woman's dignity." Every woman lives with the fear of rape every day. It matters not if one is *sosy* or *jologs*, *bagets* or *forgets*, sexy or sumptuously endowed, single or married, a housewife, professional, student or even a child. As briefing materials on violence against women declare: "the risk factor is being female."

Perhaps I had deluded myself into thinking that we have come a long way from the days when the rape victim was blamed for what happened to her. But as the accounts of what transpired that All Saints' Day in Subic became public, people seemed all too willing to point an accusing finger at Nicole, chiding her for entering a club, consorting with American soldiers, then getting into a van with four American servicemen. The possibility that she was drugged and carried into the van (especially since eyewitnesses said she was carried out of the van unconscious) doesn't seem to occur to many. Nor do they ask: What were the men thinking—or planning—loading a young woman into their vehicle? Were they going to discuss Philippine-American relations with her?

* * *

THE TOWNS statement is reprinted here, with the hope that it provides not just interesting reading, but convincing reason to support Nicole's cause:

"The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS), an organization of women who have been cited for their outstanding service to Philippine society, have thrown their support behind Nicole, the 22-year-old woman who was allegedly raped by four American servicemen in Subic in November 2005.

"TOWNS women give Nicole their unqualified support because: (a) violence against Filipino women, in any form, should not be tolerated; (b) rape is the ultimate violation of a woman's dignity; (c) military partnership with the US notwithstanding, foreign servicemen should be subjected to due process in accordance with Philippine law; (d) despite the passage of RA 8505 (An Act Providing Assistance and Protection for Rape Victims) in 1998, which represents important affirmative action, very little has been done by government to effectively protect victims of rape or sexual assault; (e) the prolonged legal process is expected to exact a heavy emotional and financial burden on Nicole's family, which has very limited means.

"What has caused particular outrage is the way Nicole was taken into a van, brutally raped and then thrown onto the sidewalk while the servicemen hurried to beat the deadline to get back to their departing ship.

* * *

"AS a first step, TOWNS has established the Justice for Nicole Fund, representing direct donations of TOWNS members. These TOWNS members have also grouped themselves to implement a media campaign as well as a legal strategy for the long haul.

"TOWNS foresees a long battle to achieve justice for Nicole. The lack of government support, especially in the preliminary investigations and from our Department of Justice is quite evident. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez made disparaging remarks about the mother of Nicole, showing ignorance about the trauma which families of victims of rape undergo, even before he decided to downgrade the charges against three of the accused Marines from principals to accessories. To make matters worse, Gonzalez declared that his initial sympathetic assessment was made only 'to appease the mob.'

"TOWNS is appalled at this weak sense of justice and national pride. Filipino women should not be used as pawns of the government and its allies, especially in collaborative undertakings such as 'anti-terrorism' and 'globalization.'

* * *

"IN ITS defense of Nicole, TOWNS hopes to guide the public in examining the 'Twin Laws' on rape, RA 8353 and RA 8505, the principal author in the Senate of which is TOWNS member Letty Shahani. RA 8353 redefines rape as a crime against the person and therefore becomes no longer a private crime against chastity, but a public crime. RA 8505 requires the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide medical and psychological assistance to the victim and the family, and the DOJ and the DILG to regularly train their key staff in the meaning of rape as a public crime and the implications of gender equality. So far, no rape victim has won a case in this country under these new laws.

"By supporting the case of Nicole, TOWNS wants to help restore the dignity and true value of Filipino women by insisting that the laws of the country which empower women should be enforced by the authorities and respected by foreign governments with whom the Philippines enters into agreements.

"TOWNS exhorts other women's groups to also come out and support the Nicole Defense Campaign. Contributions to the Nicole Defense Fund can be coursed through TOWNS Foundation Inc. (For more information call: 6374260 or 6374259, ask for Elsa Laguerta.)

"JUSTICE FOR NICOLE. JUSTICE FOR ALL FILIPINO WOMEN VICTIMS OF RAPE."

Instructions for commanders

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE OF MY CONSTANT PRAYERS IS THAT young historians or Filipinos interested in history will take an interest in the boxes of primary source material sitting in the National Library that documents the First Philippine Republic. This huge cache of material used to be known as the "Philippine Insurgent Records" (PIR), but following the revisiting and rewriting of our history, they have since been re-named the "Philippine Revolutionary Records" (PRR). What looks like simple library classification can be very significant because the US Library of Congress, whose catalogue once belittled our struggle for independence as a mere "insurrection," now describes that bloody part of our history as the "Philippine-American War." Anyone who goes through the papers in the PRR will not only get the thrill of seeing the original handwriting of Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Antonio Luna, or Pio and Gregorio del Pilar but also read eyewitness or first-hand accounts of the events that are now history to us.

Those who cannot make the trip to the National Library or those who have difficulty reading handwriting or Spanish can have recourse to the five-volume compilation of documents by J.R.M. Taylor, "The Philippine Insurrection Against the United States." Not only is it easy to consult, but everything has been translated (not always accurately) from the original Spanish or other Philippine languages into English.

What I find most fascinating after the lists and accounts are the orders, instructions and proclamations that emanated from Aguinaldo's office. These give us an idea of the conditions during the war, what the enemy was like, what our army was like. One draft document that I found engaging was a short list of instructions for the commanders. For example, Aguinaldo or his command headquarters told commanders that:

"2. It is advisable that beaches, river banks, and landing places be carefully examined, and the best manner of resistance thought out, awaiting the landing of the enemy so that each Filipino soldier can fight against three, and our troops shall be placed in concealed places in such manner that they can freely move about and place the enemy between two or three fires and make it impossible for him to see our men, not even those armed with bolos, with the exception of a few who open conversation with the enemy, whenever it can be easily done according to the circumstances of the time. But if the enemy should insist on landing, then the above orders shall be carried out without loss of time."

Obviously, the instructions are stale today, but they can still be mined for historical reasons. The situation at the time can be deduced from the instructions like:

"All commanders shall carefully look after the soldiers of their commands at meals and shall always enjoin them not to fire without first calculating the distance of the enemy (that is they will fire sure shots). The first shots are sufficient to ascertain the range [remainder of sentence illegible]. I know that there are still some ordering or following the Spanish system, that is, firing without causing damage to the enemy, and others who throw down ammunition to finish it soon and lead one to believe that they have done much firing, or to withdraw soon so that his comrades shall not consider him a coward. These acts are a dishonor to the true defenders of our Mother Philippines. While those men who act thus are very brave in times of peace with their Filipino brothers and the people of the town, the real revolutionaries or defenders of the fatherland are those who see themselves humiliated and cast down because they now have their eyes opened and know what is true."

This is reiterated a second time later in the same document: "Every commander should take care that his troops do not open fire until the enemy find themselves within 300 yards of them; but the whole combat must be arranged so that finally an attack with the bolo can be carried out."

Our army was firing without hitting anyone? They were just making noise? This definitely doesn't jibe with our images of the revolution.

He also tells the men to pray. "Let them have faith in our Maker, for if they put their trust in Him, the balls [bullets] will fly from them."

Spies are to be assassinated. "The commanders must have it thoroughly understood by the troops under their command that every member of their command is authorized to seize anyone who shows by his actions that he is a spy of the enemy, as by interfering with the effect of the attacks of his column by acts which cause fear or sudden death to his companions. In case the circumstances do not permit his arrest, anyone has the right to kill him by shooting him."

Finally, the victorious must be generous: "It must not be forgotten that when an enemy surrenders and submits that he has been vanquished, he must be pardoned and well-treated, thus showing that the past has been forgotten; and in case during an action the white flag is hoisted by one of the enemy, our soldiers must cease firing."

Old instructions can actually create new histories.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Rent

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MY FATHER WAS A JOURNALIST, AND MY MOTHER A teacher, before they went into business. So I grew up with their constant hectoring: Don't become a journalist, don't become a teacher, you'll starve. Ironically, they were even more dead set against my entering into business, and their reason here was that I was "too honest" and "too soft-hearted" to survive in the dog-eat-dog environment of businesses.

As you can see, I wasn't a very obedient son. For years now, I've been teaching, and writing for the INQUIRER. I'm not making millions, but I get by comfortably, without subsidies from my parents.

In fact, I get by well enough to now help some people to start small businesses. These are people who used to work with me in an NGO but have decided it's time to move on. Their salaries were actually quite good, with one of them getting P28,000 a month, higher than what I get at UP with my rank of professor, but I could understand why she felt she had to go into business, since she had two kids in high school and one in grade school.

Venturing into the business world, through these friends, has been traumatizing. Yes it is a jungle out there, but what makes it so tough isn't so much businesspeople preying on other businesspeople than the high costs of doing business, mainly the astronomical rents.

Gold mine

I had a vague idea of some of these costs from family reunions, where relatives in business would whine about the high rents in malls. Regular store space running into six figures a month while the small kiosks, like the ones selling nachos and drinks, go for around P50,000 a month. Those *tiangges* (bazaars), where makeshift stalls are put up and dismantled after a few weeks, aren't cheap either, costing around P25,000 a month.

My wise NGO friends had decided from the beginning that the malls and *tiangges* were not going to be options for them. They thought maybe Farmers' Market in Cubao and the San Juan public market, and came back to me totally dejected. The quoted rents went from P30,000 to P100,000.

So the search continued, and I found myself drawn into it as well, driving slowly and stopping every now and then if I saw a "For Rent" sign. All the places I saw were above P15,000 a month.

One night, I got a call from one of my friends. She had found a place in Sta. Mesa, and she was worried someone would get the place if she didn't. I went over to find a tiny makeshift shack held together with plywood and corrugated sheets. I could see the commercial potential, not from the nearby motels (which, when you think about it, also earn through short-time rent), but from the large number of jeepney commuters. There were already several stores in the area, serving food and selling trinkets and prepaid cell phone cards.

So how much was this three square meters of space? The landlady wanted P8,500 a month. She wouldn't budge. I felt it was too high and said no. Two days later, driving past the place, I could see someone had taken the place and was fixing it up to become a *carinderia*.

To make a long story short, my friend eventually got a place in the Kalentong area, in one of the side streets, to set up a *sari-sari* store. The tiny place, measuring 1.5 by 1.5 meters, costs P6,500 a month.

My other friend has left for Cagayan de Oro, where I thought the rents would be cheap. I was wrong. She's thinking of putting up a *carinderia* in a place opposite a school, with a floor area of about 6 sq m. The rent is P10,000 a month.

When you think about it, the richest gold mines in the country are found in our cities.

Feudal

"It's the landlord who earns," said the father of one of my friends in exasperation. But that, precisely, is what Marxists mean when they say our economy is "feudal." The fastest way to make money in this country is through rent.

It used to be rural landlords collecting rent through a share of agricultural harvests. These days, the windfalls come from renting out urban space.

Note I use the word "space" rather than "land." I've been working among urban poor communities and realizing how much rental activity is going on, even among "informal settlers" (the politically incorrect term is "squatters"). They don't own the land, but will still collect rent on every last centimeter of space. I've found people leasing out the street space in front of their shack to someone to sell barbecue, while the interior of their shack will be carved out into tiny cubicles to rent out to entire families. (They also rent out electricity, but that's another story.)

There are, of course, legitimate landlords. Even a small lot can bring in considerable income. I mentioned my friend paying P6,500 a month for *sari-sari* store space. Well, her landlady also has 12 bedspacers, students in a nearby college, paying P1,000 a month each. I estimate the landlady's home has a floor area of about 100 sq m, for which rental income comes to P18,500 a month.

I was serious when I said every last centimeter of space counts. I found one man who was "renting" driveway space near a recruitment agency to offer instant ID photos. The agency itself had offered him a corner inside their office, but wanted P400 a day. In the end, he found a building nearby whose owner charges him P250 a day for the use of the driveway.

Capitalism

I could do a whole book on rents and landlords and tenants. Next time you buy pearls or pirated VCDs in Greenhills, look closely and you'll realize that each stall has at least two, sometimes as many as four "tenants" sharing space. You'll find, too, that the distinctions between landlords and tenants are blurred, as tenants sublease (often in violation of a rental contract) spaces.

And yet we're talking here about the more fortunate middle class. For poor Filipinos, the only option is to sell out in the streets or in the sidewalks. And you'll find people buying from them because without rental overheads, their prices are lower.

But what a life that is. The vendors can't have too many goods because they're illegal. So they always have to be ready to pack up and run when the police come by.

With so much of business income going into rent, I'm not surprised capitalism is so stunted in our country. Capital can't grow this way.

And that's not the end of the problem. To survive, businesses jack up the costs of commodities, and pay very low wages to their workers.

We keep hearing the President and other officials talking about how we should support small and medium enterprises. They should start by tackling this problem of high rentals and offering public spaces at affordable rates. It's obscene that even public markets now charge almost as much as private malls.

Since I've learned about how high rents are, I've found myself bargaining much less when dealing with smaller businesses. My parents were right when they said I don't have the heart for business. But I have to ask: Is this the way to economic development?

‘More’ under GMA

WINNIE MONSOD DID WELL IN explaining "Why people are not out on the streets." (PDI, 3/25/06) In a survey for the best and worst of 8 GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) "goes" and 2 GMA "stays" scenarios, 65 percent of Filipinos think ousting GMA is best for our country, while paradoxically 81 percent say it is worst under certain "unfavorable" alternatives.

In this case, we have to brace ourselves for:

- More dead journalists, students, farmers and labor activists, maybe even priests, judges, or anyone who, in his or her pursuit of truth, may be considered a destabilizer.
- More scams, missing funds, missing votes and missing untouchable deputy-culprits.
- More borrowing by the government and oppressive taxes—to buy support for its rule—never mind if such moves plunges deeper in debt and poverty.
- More ecological disasters as the government invites more firms to mine our natural resources, never mind the tragic landslides, flash floods and "mining" disasters. Mining (and logging) firms will be lining up to avail themselves of our zero accountability offer.
- More henchmen replacing honorable men in our military until the Armed Forces of the Philippines is no longer the protector of the people but merely a *"casa"* of GMA's prostitutes.

The list can go on. And GMA's trust rating is lower than Marcos', which essentially shows she is the worst Philippine President ever. Is it hard to find anything better than the worst?

Divided as we are, we can still vow to never allow GMA and her minions to smugly evade justice for all the suffering and unprecedented rottenness they are inflicting upon our country.

For as long as they remain unaccountable, no one in power now and in the future, will ever fear or respect justice. Oppression will worsen for generations to come. And the proverbial belt that the government wants us to keep tightening will eventually become a garrote.

Soon enough, we will overlook our divisions, and all will come out to exercise our right to defend ourselves, our families and our weaker countrymen.

—ERNESTO T. LAPUZ,
Biga, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Gov’t leaders need to practice gospel-values

I NOTE THE WISDOM OF A priest-friend who said that the Catholic Church may have in some ways failed to inculcate the gospel-values in our leaders, many of whom are Catholics. I am shocked and upset because some of our national and local leaders who claim they are devoted Catholics are reportedly involved in irregularities like electoral fraud and graft and corruption.

How can the Catholic Church best prepare its flock for leadership—to become leaders who show God's loving concern by carrying out Christ's mission through word and work? How can these leaders best serve the needs of our ailing society?

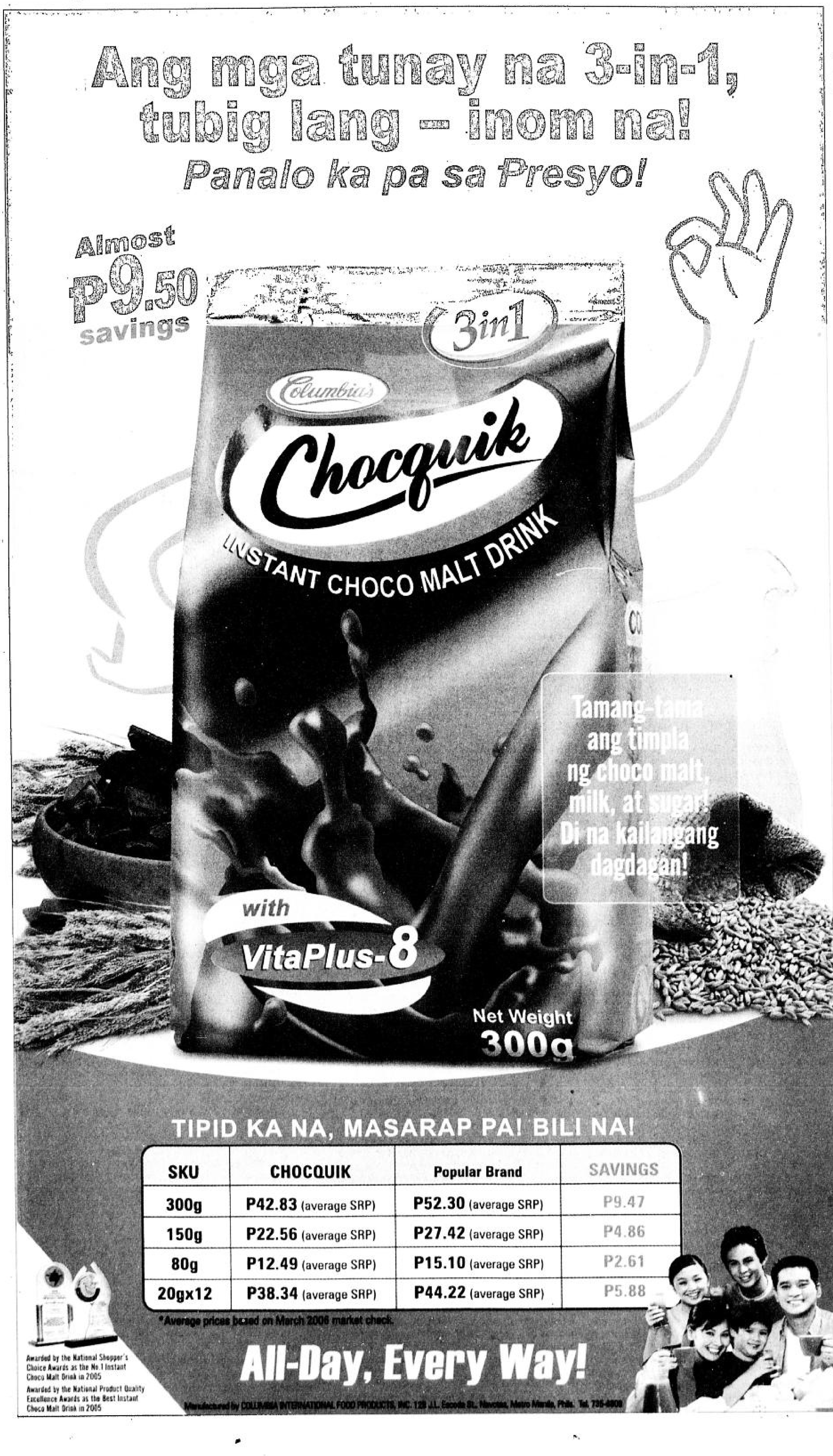
Certainly, a number of our present leaders attend Sunday Masses, receive communion as they please, say 9-day novenas without end and participate in Catholic rituals. But, of course, all those acts do not make them better Christians than those who belong to other religious sects. And we know many of them remain indifferent to the plight of the poor and the socially handicapped. Where have we failed as Catholics?

Meanwhile, I am aware that many Catholic parents want their children to study in Catholic schools because of the religious teachings and values that these schools offer and espouse. These schools are supposed to prepare their students to live Christian lives and imbue them with the gospel-values taught by Christ and the ethos of the Mother Church. However, I also note with great distress that there are many Catholic schools who put more emphasis on high grades than on Christian values. There are indeed some Catholic teachers who are unchristian in their ways of teaching the children.

The Catholic Church is failing. But we should be proud to practice the gospel-values in our lives. If only the parish priests and the local leaders—the mayors, vice mayors, councilors and barangay officials—who consider themselves Catholics work with dynamism and effective Christian leadership, in tandem with other members of religious sects, then no doubt, there will be no room for poverty, lawlessness, graft and corruption, illegal gambling, drugs and other social evils in the community.

In the face of the social problems besetting our country, the role of the Catholic Church should be reviewed and "revitalized." On one hand, the best sermon, so they say, is a good deed based on the gospel-values. On the other hand, the best Catholic teachers are those who create a Christian atmosphere in schools.

—REGINALD B. TAMAYO,
member, Sangguniang Bayan,
Aparri, Cagayan



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The greatest sin

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, DURING THE LENTEN season, our poor neighborhood usually had a "Pabasa" (public reading of the Passion of Christ) in front of a makeshift altar built at the end of our street. The elders collected money from every house for expenses. My mother was always asked to keep the money; she was trusted for her honesty and integrity.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The bulk of the collection was spent on sumptuous dishes for the invited priest who held Mass on the makeshift altar after the Pabasa on Easter Sunday. The priest who came was always chubby and *mestizo*, and he reminded me of Padre Damaso in "Noli Me Tangere."

I could not understand why we had to give all we had to serve expensive food to a priest who represented Jesus. Wasn't he supposed to suffer with the poor? Wouldn't there be a Mass if the neighborhood could not offer good food?

I attended our family's and neighbors' baptism and wedding ceremonies, which were held on any day except Sunday, and were always at the side and never in front of the church's altar. A few lights were turned on, and they cast eerie shadows.

In contrast, while attending Sunday Mass, I witnessed weddings where all of the church's chandeliers were lighted, a red carpet laid out from the main entrance all the way to the altar, and the organ played at full volume.

Once, I was taken to an uncle's funeral. We passed by our church. The coffin was removed from the hearse. The priest came out, said a prayer and sprinkled holy water, and off we went.

On the other hand, I sometimes saw coffins inside the church. I wondered if the souls of those dead people were worthier than my uncle's or my neighbors' who had died?

The nuns who came to our neighborhood on Saturday afternoons to teach catechism told us that everybody was equal in the eyes of God. If that was so, why weren't we equal in the house of God?

The public schools were no better. Teachers hardly noticed bright, intelligent children dressed in faded old clothes. Test results hardly mattered. What mattered were children who were dressed better, children who gave money to fund drives, children whose parents were professionals and active in the PTA.

Listening, looking and observing, I realized that the greatest sin was to be born poor. The sins of lying, cheating, stealing, corruption, greed and gluttony, etc. can be forgiven but not the sin of being poor.

And unlike other sins, for which punishment is meted out later (you die and go to hell), the punishment for the sin of being poor is now meted out while you are still alive, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in an "earth-hell" called a squatters' area in Metro Manila.

This is why the gluttonous, rich and corrupt politicians, insensitive elite, greedy business people, etc. will do anything to stay away from those "earth-hells." They go to confession, take Holy Communion, give generous contributions to the Church, and all will be well between them and their God. After all, isn't that what the Church preaches, forgiveness for sinners? With this assurance of forgiveness, they can sin again and again and again.

For the "Filipino masses," there is promise, isn't there? It is that when they die, they will go to heaven. "It is easier for a poor man to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

That is what I heard from the nuns and priests in my youth, and I have a strong feeling that they still teach that today.**—Aimee Gonzales (via e-mail)**

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Nueva Vizcaya slams door on STL

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—THE PROVINCIAL board has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to spare the province from the Small Town Lottery (STL) project, which the government considers an effective replacement for the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

In a resolution approved on Wednesday, the board said the province "remains consistent in its strong stand against any form of illegal gambling."

"[STL] is another form of gambling, similar to jueteng and this [board] is opposed to the principle of curbing gambling through the introduction of another form of gambling," said Board Member Patricio Dumlao Jr., author of the resolution.

The resolution was approved after the government, through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, went full blast in its experimental operations, starting with six pilot areas in Luzon.

"Gambling, in any form is anti-economic, antisocial and inimical to the well-being of the family as it results in economic dislocation and delinquency among children," the board said.

Board members were worried that the STL franchises in the country had been awarded to jueteng operators.

The passage of the resolution, however, was not without hitches.

Before its approval, Vice Gov. Jose Gambito, the board's presiding officer, questioned how the board, through the resolution, denied outright the application of Alex Mauricio to operate the STL in the province.

"Are you not going to let the application go through the process? In [denying the application], it is as if you are saying that the applicant is not morally upright and you are morally upright," Gambito told board members.

Earlier, board members also disagreed over how the measure was worded.

Board Member Edgardo Balgos voted for the resolution only after the authors agreed to remove from the document the name of Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong as among those who were instrumental in the eradication of jueteng in the province.

"The resolution is better if we will not mention personalities fighting gambling, as there are many unsung Vizcayano leaders [who are] doing so," Balgos told the INQUIRER.

"But we appreciate so much the bishop in his fight against jueteng," he added.

ROUNDUP

3 hijackers killed

POLICE killed at dawn yesterday three suspected hijackers shortly after commandeering a truck full of rice in Northern Luzon. Only two of the three dead men had been identified—Antonio Henobes, of Pasay City; and Georgie Ardales, of Dasmariñas, Cavite. The three allegedly shot it out with policemen. They yielded firearms, police added. An hour earlier, a tricycle driver found the truck driver, Alberto Castelo, tied and his mouth covered with masking tape on a road somewhere past Cabanatuan City. Castelo and his two helpers had stopped to buy food in Nueva Ecija when six armed men commandeered their vehicle. They took only Castelo and left behind the helpers. The tricycle driver brought Castelo to a police station, where a team was sent to run after the suspects.

Luigi del Puerto in Manila and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bus catches fire

LIPA CITY—A Tritran bus bound for Lemery town was stopped by a traffic enforcer after its rear caught fire on Friday, a city fire official said Wednesday. The bus stopped in front of the Robinson's Place in Barangay Mataas na Lupa here where two fire trucks arrived to keep the flames from spreading. SFO1 Alexander Macasaet said portions of the back of the bus and parts of its ceiling were damaged. He said the fire was caused by the "freon of the air-conditioning unit that exploded due to faulty electrical wiring." No one was hurt.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Crackdown on aliens

LEGAZPI CITY—Local immigration authorities have started a crackdown on undocumented foreigners. Joseph Ojano, local immigration officer, said the Bureau of Immigration was checking on these aliens and issuing them identification cards in coordination with the police. The undocumented aliens, mostly Indians, are engaged in the buy-and-sell business.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cleanliness award tagged useless

LEGAZPI CITY—A city councilor branded an award program for cleanliness as useless after it was found that villages along a river failed to rid the water body of garbage. Councilor Cerilo Chan said a team was dismayed over the results of its evaluation of Barangays Sagmin, Bano, Pinaric, Bagumbayan, East Washington and Tula-Tula. Piles of garbage were seen in the villages. The city government has allotted P500,000 for the cleanliness awards program, said Chan, who heads the council's appropriations committee.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayon alert level down

LEGAZPI CITY—The alert level for Mayon Volcano was reduced from 2 to 1 on Monday after the Lingnon Hill Observatory of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the volcano had quieted down. The Phivolcs, however, said the 6-km permanent danger zone should be followed. Alert Level 1 has remained in effect since Tuesday.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Board member in trouble

TIAONG, Quezon—A Quezon provincial board member in a government-issued vehicle accidentally bumped and killed a vegetable trader along the Tiaong-San Antonio highway in Barangay San Agustin in this town on Tuesday night, a police report said. Senior Insp. Alex Orfanel, Tiaong police chief, identified the board member as James Rey Bico. Police said Bico was driving his Toyota Revo when he hit Conciana Silva, 55, who was loading vegetables in a jeep on the roadside. The victim was taken to the San Pablo Medical Center where she died.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Army officer slain

LEGAZPI CITY—A Philippine Army officer was gunned down by communist guerrillas in Iriga City on Monday. SSgt. Nestor Esmeria, detachment commander in Barangay San Isidro, Iriga, was on his motorcycle when waylaid. Five of the seven suspects were minors, said Maj. Ramon Rosario, chief of the Civil Relations Unit in Bicol. The suspects fled using the victim's Honda motorcycle.

Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Commencement

DR. TAN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taipan Lucio Tan (second from left) receives from Isabela State University (ISU) president Romeo Quilang (left) a university resolution conferring on him an honorary doctorate in institutional development and management. Chair and CEO of Philippine Airlines, Fortune Tobacco Corp. and several companies and foundations that seek to uplift education standards and the quality of life of Filipinos, Dr. Tan was guest of honor and speaker during the 7th commencement exercises at the ISU-Cauayan campus.

DSWD gives cash to Guinsaugon victims' kin

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare and Development in Eastern Visayas (DSWD) on Wednesday handed out cash to the families affected by the massive landslides that wiped out the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

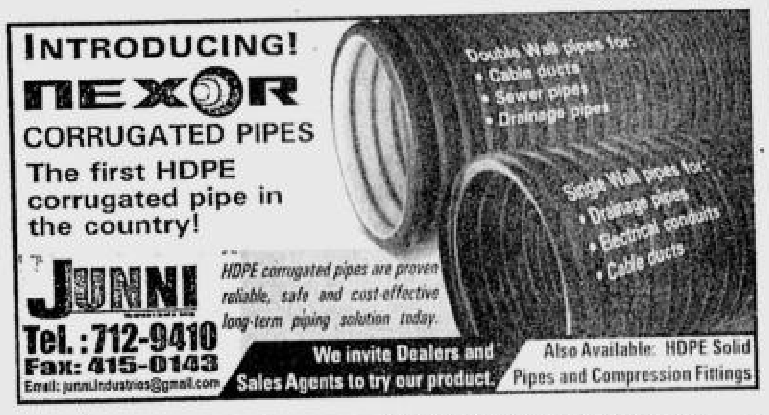
Letecia Corillo, DSWD director in Eastern Visayas, said 19 persons who were wounded during the landslides received P5,000 each while P10,000 each was given to the families of 47 persons who died.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral handed the cash at the Legislative Building in St. Bernard on Wednesday.

Among those present in the ceremony were Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias and St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim.

Corillo said the cash, which reached P565,000, may be small but it could help "start a new life."

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau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Laguna lake overused, polluted, says DENR

By Blanche S. Rivera

FISH PENS AND FISH CAGES have exceeded the carrying capacity of the 90,000-ha Laguna de Bay, the biggest inland body of water in the country which is slowly dying due to pollution and pressure.

Operators of fish pens have exceeded the 10,000-ha area set by the Laguna Lake Development Authority as the limit for fish pens, covering an extra area of 843 hectares. Another 5,000 hectares were set aside for fish cages.

"Laguna Lake is dying. Fish pens have exceeded the carrying capacity of the lake," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a press conference yesterday.

Occupied

Another 292 hectares of the lake are occupied by seven illegal fish pens or those that have been operating without permits from the LLDA.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources last year issued a moratorium on the issuance of new permits for fish pens, but the existing fish pens still exceeded the limit by 843 hectares.

"I don't know how they got the permits, but we will look into that," Reyes said.

"We cannot allow unscrupulous people to just set up fish pens. We cannot let them destroy the lake and prevent fisherfolks from earning their livelihood," he added.

The LLDA board approves permits for fish pens and cages in Laguna de Bay. For every hectare of the lake that is being used, nine hectares should be free and open space to keep the lake alive.

Gen. Marino Filart, president of the Federation of Fish Pen and Fish Cage Operators Association of Laguna de Bay, admitted that some of the group's members were the ones expanding without permits.

"Majority of us don't sanction this because the lake is deteriorating very rapidly," Filart said in the same press conference.

Beneficiaries

Laguna de Bay provides direct and indirect support to 13 million people, of whom 3.9 million live in 29 lakeshore municipalities.

Wastes from households have become the biggest source pollution for the lake where traces of heavy metals have been found and the water quality level has fallen to the level of a stressed lake.

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Army offers medical help to NPA leader

BUTUAN CITY—THE ARMY HAS offered medical assistance for National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge Madlos to get treatment for his alleged lingering kidney ailment.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said that although Madlos was an "enemy," he still deserved proper medical attention from the government.

"We are offering him proper medical treatment not available in the mountains," Simbajon told the INQUIRER.

Simbajon said the Army's humanitarian offer extended not only to top leaders of the rebel movement but also to ordinary guerrillas who need immediate medical help.

Citing intelligence reports from a highly reliable source within the New People's Army (NPA), Simbajon said Madlos, the most senior NDF cadre in Mindanao, was already bedridden due to complications from a kidney ailment.

"He's very sick but very much alive," Simbajon said of Madlos, also known as Ka Oris.

MADLOS

But a source in the police intelligence community here said the articulate and soft-spoken rebel spokesman had already passed away two weeks ago.

The source cited Madlos' notable absence in the radio airwaves for his regular media interviews as proof of his death.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Madlos for comment at his jungle hideout somewhere in Surigao del Sur, but nobody was answering his mobile phone. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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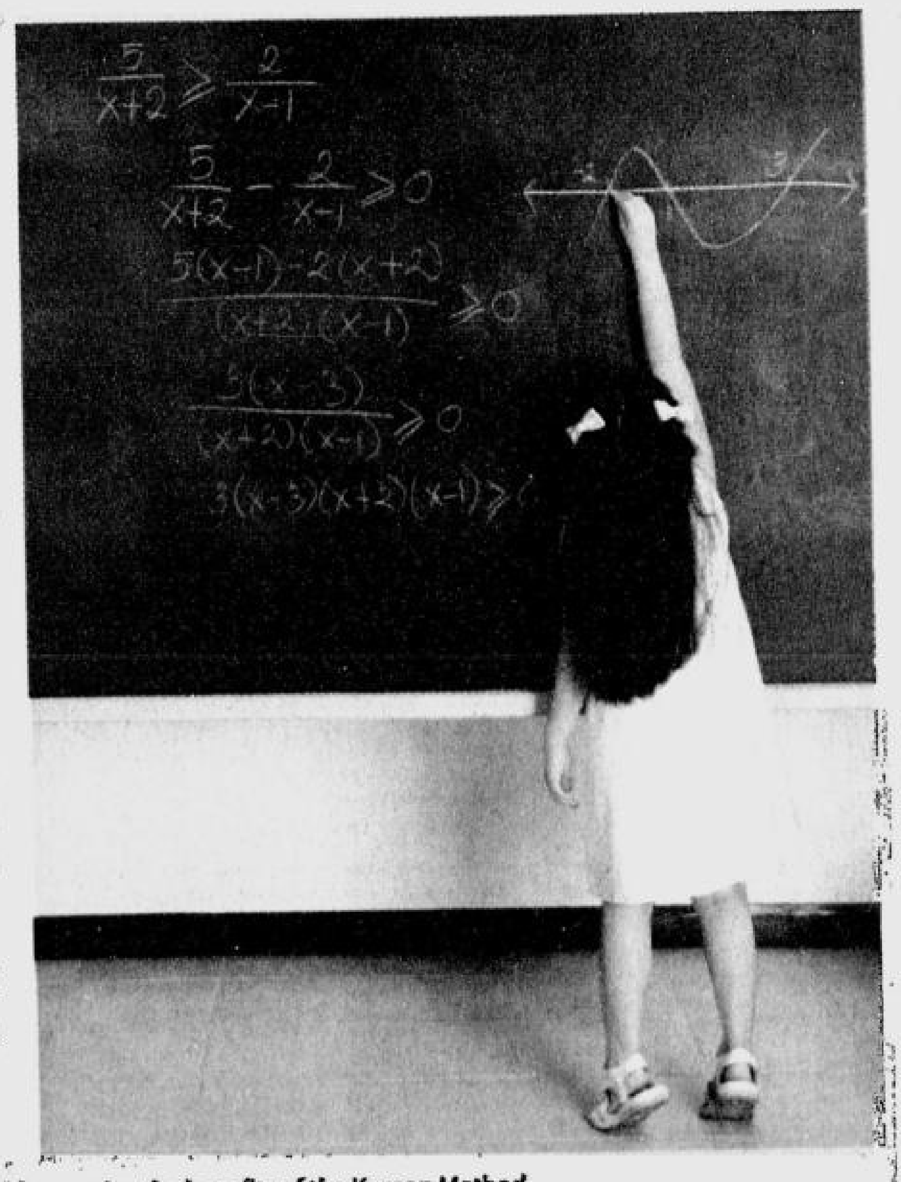

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US envoy sees more projects in Sulu

JOLO, SULU—US AMbassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney gave hints about her government's plan to maintain a long-term presence in Sulu.

KENNEY

"This is the place where we really focus on peace, on development, we have a lot of work to do, like health issues, educational issues," Kenney, who arrived here on Wednesday, said.

It was Kenney's first visit to the province, considered one of the lairs of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf, which passes itself as an Islamist armed movement, is in Washington's target list of priority terror organizations.

US soldiers have been busy building development projects here in a bid to stamp out local support for the bandit group. Kenney said the presence of American soldiers was helping efforts to bring back peace to the province.

"(They) are working with the AFP and the people of Sulu, they are here to advise, to help bring peace and they are doing a lot (of other things)," she said.

"Not only that their presence is good in Sulu, but I think it's fabulous. Most of them have fallen in love with Sulu, with the residents here. They love being here and they are the ones who have been talking to me about great things going on here in Sulu," she added.

Kenney said that by May or June, the US government would be sending medical ships here "to help the people."

She said the US government would also like to help train doctors to provide the people of Sulu access to regular medical services.

Among the projects that the US government wanted to pursue is the teaching of the English language. *Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 killed in 2-hour hostage drama in Laguna

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—FOUR people were killed, including a drunken man who shot and held hostage four members of his own family for two hours in Barangay Landayan here Wednesday over a dispute on inheritance.

Supt. Sergio Dimandal, San Pedro police chief, identified those killed as hostage-taker Valentin Barlao, 44; his father Silverio, 78; sister Florentina Calibag, 49; and mother Patrocinia, 74.

Dimandal said Barlao, who was apparently drunk, barged into the house of his sister Florentina in Purok 5, Barangay Landayan at about 5:30 p.m. and shot dead his father and sister with a pistol while cursing them.

'Unfair' division

Police said an "unfair" division among the family members of an inheritance involving a house and lot that the family owned in Barangay Sto. Niño reportedly infuriated Valentin.

Barlao also shot his mother who tried to calm him down. The mother died at the Perpetual Help Hospital in Biñan town.

After shooting his parents and sister, Valentin held hostage his mentally handicapped brother Gil, at the terrace on the second floor of the three-story house.

When the police came, Dimandal said they saw bloodied bodies slumped near the suspect.

Assault

At about 7:15 p.m., Dimandal ordered a police assault. Valentin was gunned down and Gil was rescued.

Before he died, police said Valentin had demanded to see his other brothers and sisters and ask them to join him at the second-floor terrace where the bodies were lying.

Police said Valentin was shouting that he would end it all, and took it to mean that he would kill everyone, prompting the policemen to start the assault.

Catanduanes folk to unite vs power costs

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—STUNNED BY THE advance implementation of the mandated 30-percent rate increase by the National Power Corp., many of the 33,000 consumers in Catanduanes are expected to join a Labor Day rally on Monday to protest their huge power bills.

A new consumers' group, composed of breakaway members of the People's War vs Endless Economic Injustices (PWEE!), will join the rally, to be led by the party-list group Bayan Muna, and march around the Virac poblacion.

The consumers' move was triggered by last week's advice from the Napocor Albay-Catanduanes Grid management to the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ficelco) that it would impose a P5.64 per kilowatt-hour "Subsidized/Approved Generation Rate" recently allowed by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Napocor said the increase would be without prejudice to the retroactive application of the rate increase for previous months beginning January, since the ERC decision was signed in December 2005.

Faced with potential losses of P6 million if it would not apply the increase in the April 2006 billings, the cooperative had no choice but to revise its statements of accounts to include the mandated increase of P1.9 per kWh, plus systems-loss charges and the VAT.

Residential consumers received billings indicating increases ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent in their monthly electric bills.

Consumers are now paying P11.22 to P11.35 per kWh, much higher than the P8.94 being paid by Metro Manila residents.

The outcry from Ficelco consumers prompted the cooperative management to meet with Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr., Vice Gov. Vincent Villaluna, and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to discuss possible moves to counter the implementation of the power rate increase.

The governor told the INQUIRER he would write President Macapagal-Arroyo to seek an audience with her, together with the provincial board members, town mayors, Ficelco officials, and consumers, and appeal for a delay in implementation of the power rate increase.

"We need time to recover from our economic difficulties and to put into place our projected mini-hydroelectric power plant proposal," he added.

The consumers' group plans to seek a court order to stop the rate increase, file a motion for reconsideration at the ERC, and launch a signature campaign addressed to the President. *Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SC shows no mercy for court worker

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BAGUIO CITY—SAYING that public servants must exhibit the highest sense of honesty and integrity, the Supreme Court showed no mercy for a court employee who pocketed money in the court's custody.

Voting en banc on April 25, the high court ordered the dismissal from service of Robert Camurongan, a municipal trial court aide of San Fernando, Pampanga, after he was found guilty of grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the interest of public service.

Judge Domingo San Jose Jr. filed the administrative complaint against Camurongan on Dec. 29, 2000.

Camurongan admitted that in November 2000, he took home P11,983 in "jueteng" money kept by the court as evidence for "safekeeping because the clerk of court's office at that time was flooded."

He said that while the money was in his possession, a family emergency forced him to use the amount.

In begging for clemency, he asked the SC to understand his plight as sole breadwinner and pleaded for leniency in determining punishment. He said he was willing to return the amount.

But the tribunal refused to be persuaded.

It stressed that "personal problems cannot justify the misuse by any court employee of judiciary funds in its custody."

Not even the alleged flood can justify the taking, the SC said, as the act would still be considered theft.

"Court personnel who might yield to the temptation of using for their own interest funds entrusted to the courts should be reminded that there is no place in the judiciary for those who cannot meet the exacting standards of judicial conduct," the decision read.

He was also ordered to return the P11,983. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Youth group plans to plant 25M trees in 5 yrs

DAVAO CITY—THOUSANDS OF youths have vowed to plant millions of trees within the next five years in their desire to check air pollution and prevent other environmental hazards that, they said, had killed thousands of people.

"There are at least 200,000 youths committed to plant some 25 million trees in the next five years," Xavier Padilla, international coordinator of the Youth for Christ, said of the ambitious project.

"This is to promote the youth to do good work and to take care of the environment," Padilla said during a recent Youth for Christ convention held here.

But Padilla said getting the youth to actually participate in the undertaking would require an information dissemination campaign and help from the communities.

He said lectures, symposiums and moves to convince the local governments and other community sectors to participate in the cause was what the group has been doing.

But not only the young are joining.

Rene de Rueda, national coordinator of the Couples for Christ-Oikos society, said his group would help the youth tackle at least five areas of environmental concerns that must be addressed.

One issue is reforestation, De Rueda said.

He said planting the targeted 25 million trees within five years will be the youth's goal and the source of fund would come mostly from donations and "from ourselves."

Air pollution, garbage disposal, food production and access to safe water are also on top of their list of concerns.

Dr. Donato de la Cruz, clean air advisor for the Energy and Clean Air Project, an initiative funded by the US Agency for International Development, said air pollution in urban cities is currently tagged as one of the leading causes of deaths in the world.

Citing a World Bank study, De la Cruz said some 2,000 people die each year of respiratory-related illnesses because of "heavy particles" of harmful air pollutants emitted by motor vehicles and factories.

"In (the) roadside alone it's three times higher (air pollution) than the standard that is safe for humans," De la Cruz said.

He said local governments should come out with more stringent anti-air pollution measures and tap alternative fuels, such as coconut methyl esther, as a positive step toward cleaning the air.

Arlene Donaire, Ecap deputy chief of party, said her group would provide technical assistance to local government units and introduce best practices for clean air programs. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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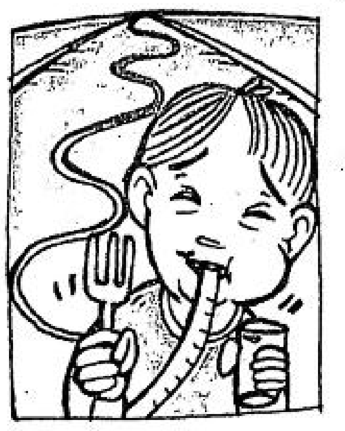
Nueva Ecija town lays 6-km noodle to launch product



ALIAGA, NUEVA ECIJA—A 6-km *pancit canton* (noodle), one of the major products here, was laid out on the main street of this town on Tuesday as part of the fiesta celebration.

The single strand of noodle, the size of a small finger, used 245 bags of flour, 24 kg of starch and lye. It was prepared overnight and laid out on *saha* (banana trunks).

The whole stretch covered seven villages. Organizers held a noodle eating ceremony in every village, while the noodle was being laid out.

Vice Mayor Elizabeth Vargas, chair of the public employment services office here, said the activity was meant to highlight the town's products.

It was staged with the cooperation of members of women's groups and residents, who donated the ingredients, she said.

"The commercial *pancit canton* being produced by our women's groups is flavored with vegetables raised here," Vargas said.

The available flavors are squash, taro (*gabi*), spinach, *alugbati*, *malunggay* and carrot.

Vargas said instant noodles featuring any of these flavors would be produced and marketed soon.

"This festive launching of the *pancit canton* was just a symbolic act in celebrating our oneness in our drive for economic takeoff. We are pursuing our town's agro-industrial economic plan," Vargas added.

Rino Valdez, provincial science and technology officer for Nueva Ecija, said the Department of Science and Technology trained members of women's groups in noodle making.

Vargas started the project in 2001 when she was mayor of the town. The local government bought the equipment to process noodles.

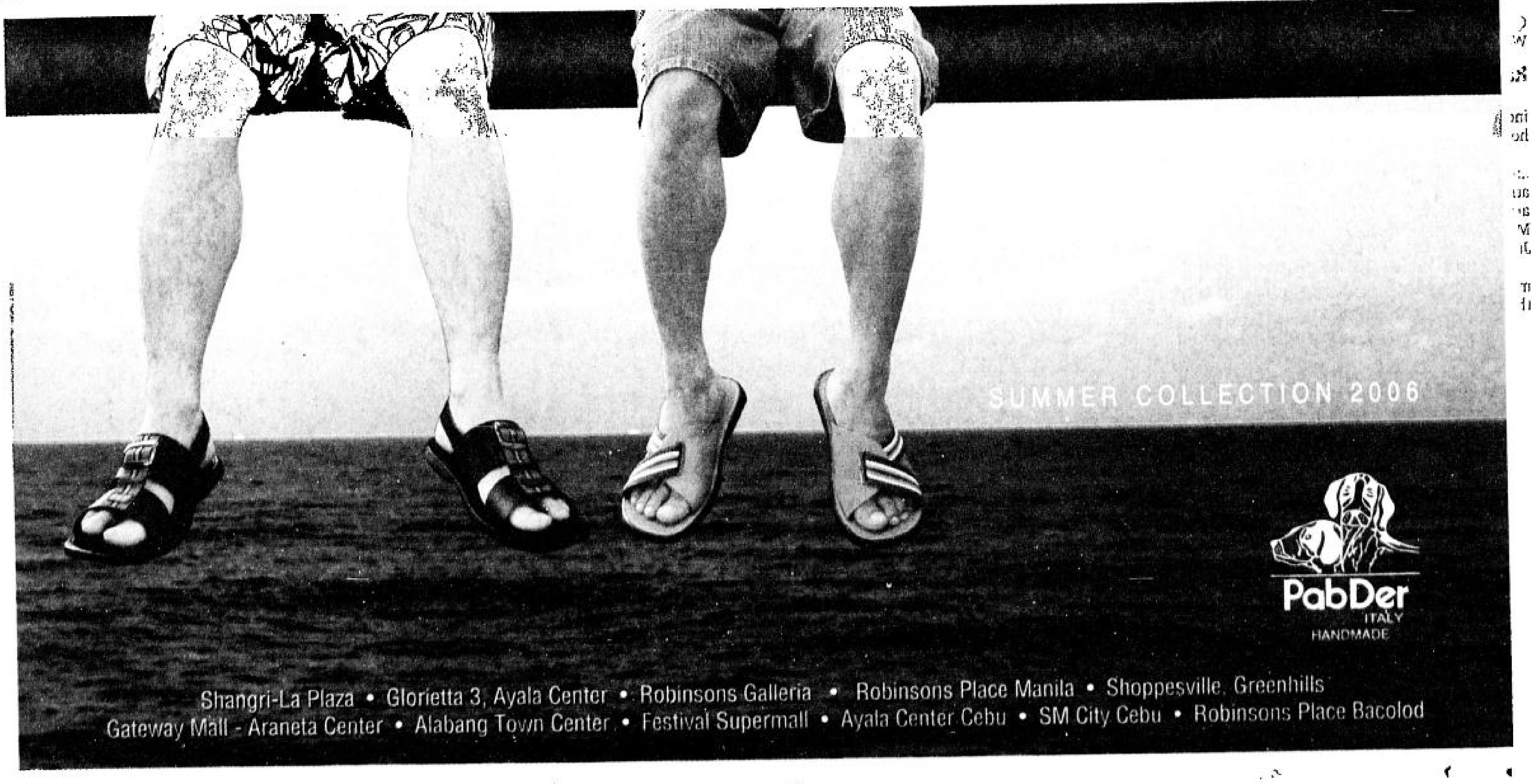
The product's marketing is handled by a cooperative and a local private company.

In La Union, the coastal town of Bauang on Sunday displayed a 195-m (640-foot) glutinous rice cake, locally known as the *ingkiwar*, which 5,000 residents and guests partook of.

The *ingkiwar* was produced by 400 people using over 160 huge vats (*sinublan*). It was 0.6-m (2-foot) wide and 2 inches thick.

About 600 coconuts, 1,600 kg of glutinous rice, 728 pieces of *sinacob* (hardened brown sugar), 200 gallons of water, and 20,000 banana leaves were used to produce the delicacy.

"This was not only intended as a kickoff activity to celebrate our town fiesta but was also our way of establishing our identity," Mayor Eulogio Martin de Guzman said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Errol Abrew, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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'Freedom Park' now a flower market in Cebu

CEBU CITY—THIS QUEEN CITY of the South has a "freedom park" but it is more famous now as a marketplace for flowers and native products—not as a place for protest actions.

Several stalls are so packed into Freedom Park in downtown Cebu City that there is hardly space left for people to converge and hold rallies.

"Yes, Cebu City has a freedom park, but that is actually a place where everybody is free to buy flowers because it's being utilized as stores for flowers," said human rights lawyer Democrito Barcenas.

Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo identified Cebu City as the only locality that established a freedom park as mandated by Batas Pambansa Blg. 880.

The place used to be called Plaza Washington, where political rallies and religious debates were held. Later, it was renamed Freedom Park.

Then vendors started coming in.

Historian Dionisio Sy said local officials tried to remove the vendors by demolishing their stalls, but the vendors kept coming back.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña admitted the park could no longer be used as a venue for public assemblies due to the presence of the vendors. He said he understood the vendors were only trying to make a living. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

IN FULL battle gear, Philippine Air Force personnel join a military exercise at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. New threats of military destabilization during the Labor Day celebration are being monitored by the military.

JESS YUSON

Solons: 'Learn to say no to ralliers'

SAYING MAKATI AND SAN JUAN SHOULD stop acting like "separate republics," administration lawmakers yesterday urged two opposition bailiwicks to be more discriminating in issuing rally permits to government opponents.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina and Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan said that while the Supreme Court voided the "calibrated preemptive response" policy, it upheld Batas Pambansa Blg. 880.

The law calls on officials to designate "freedom parks" where rallies may be held without permits and allows for the denial of rally permits elsewhere if there is a clear and present danger to the public.

Baterina said designating freedom parks in Makati and San Juan would be "useless" because the officials there might issue rally permits even outside designated zones.

"It would be like declaring their whole city free-for-all protest areas," Baterina said.

Domogan said he feared Makati and San Juan would not recognize any situations calling for the denial of permits.

"I doubt if they will ever reject any applications for a permit to rally against the government," he said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

CHR rues mayors' failure to act on rally permits

From page A1

al Malacañang's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy which the police had cited in prohibiting anti-Arroyo rallies in Metro Manila.

Speaking to reporters the other day after meeting with police officers, Soriano urged local government executives to put down in writing their decisions to approve or deny applications for rally permits to avoid confusion between police and protesters, which had led to violence in the past.

But Soriano also asked protesters to abide by the Supreme Court ruling junking the CPR policy while upholding Batas Pambansa Blg. 880, the law on public assembly.

The confusion over whether a rally has or has no permit is a problem city or town mayors should deal with, Soriano said.

"They should act on it [and] whether approving or denying it, it must be in writing," Soriano said, citing Section 6 of BP 880.

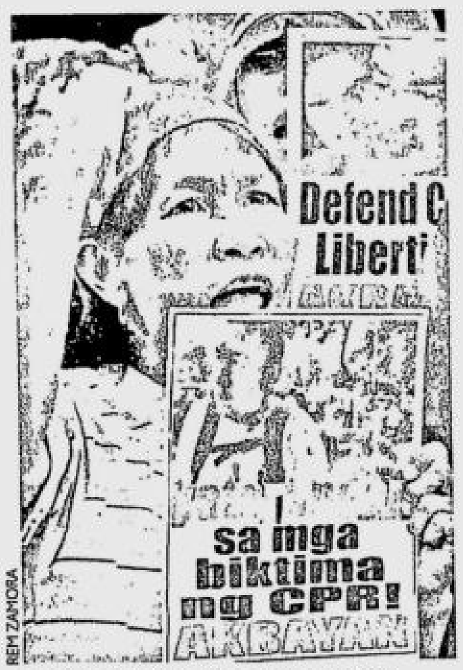
The section—a frequent source of dispute between the police and the protesters—states:

"The mayor or any official acting in his behalf shall act on the application within two (2) working days from the date the application was filed, failing which, the permit shall be deemed granted."

Mayor's duty

The law also says it shall be the duty of the mayor or any official acting in his behalf to grant a permit "unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the public assembly will create a clear and present danger to public order, public safety, public convenience, public morals or public health."

Any action on the permit shall be in writing, according to the law.



REM ZAMORA

MEMBERS of the Akbayan party-list group demand justice for victims of the calibrated preemptive response policy of the government in a rally on Thursday.

To mayors: Study BP 880

"This is the problem of the mayors. The police do not make policy," he said, adding that the mayors should "study very seriously BP 880."

"The message right now is addressed to the mayors to do something about it," he said.

Soriano also said while the police should refrain at all times from hurting protesters, rally organizers must also "abide by the ruling of the Supreme Court."

The high tribunal has stated that a rally permit is needed when protesting in a public place other than a freedom park, Soriano pointed out.

"And if they are issued a permit, they should abide by what the permit says," he said.

Don't go astray

Protesters must avoid proceeding to a place not covered by their permit, such as the Don Chino Roces Bridge (Mendiola), when their permit only allows them to demonstrate in Plaza Miranda, Soriano said.

Lomibao and his corespondents were charged with violating BP 880 and Revised Penal Code provisions on arbitrary detention and unlawful arrest.

Lawyer Alfonso Cinco IV said the filing of the charges was a warning to human rights violators that they would be hounded and sued in court by their victims.

The charges against the police were filed by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Karapatan.

"With the evidence that we have, we are sure we can pin down the PNP elements. The nonwearing of IDs, the carrying of firearms within 100 meters of the demonstration and the violent dispersals of peaceful assemblies injured countless citizens," Cinco said.

"These are very serious violations, implemented on the orders of high PNP officials."

Unfortunate, says PNP

Lomibao's corespondents are National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol, Manila police director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Manila police Supt. Bernard Diaz, Insp. John Guiagui and several John Does.

"It is unfortunate that in the performance of our duty … we're being charged," said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao.

He maintained that police actions during rallies had been anchored on the law. "We did not violate any law, and we were just performing our jobs," he said.

In its decision, the high court called on the Department of the Interior and Local Government to take steps for the immediate establishment of a freedom park or plaza in every city and town where rallies may be held without permits.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye doused the speculation that Malacañang would ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling striking down the CPR policy.

He said Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura had told Palace officials there was no need to file a motion for reconsideration since the high court had ruled that BP 880 was constitutional. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Ka Bel to miss May Day rally for 1st time in 20 years

By Blanche S. Rivera

ON MONDAY, WORKERS WILL NOT just press for freedom from poverty. They will also seek the freedom of a labor leader who has marched with them every May 1st since the Marcos dictatorship.

For the first time in 20 years, workers led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno will miss the presence of Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, who is still in detention on rebellion charges.

Beltran, a member of the KMU since 1955, had never missed May 1 protest actions in the past two decades, the KMU said. The last time he was unable to go out to the streets on Labor Day was when he was jailed during the Marcos regime.

"Ka Bel has always been an inspiration. We need him. That's why part of what we will demand (on Labor Day) is for the immediate release of Ka Bel and the five other party-list representatives," KMU chair Elmer Labog said yesterday.

Labog reiterated the militant groups' position that the charges against Beltran and five other party-list representatives were baseless. *With Alda Franz C. Quodala*

Cops find cache of explosives in Abu Sayyaf 'hideout'

From page A1

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been blamed for deadly bombings, kidnappings and banditry in Mindanao, is estimated to have 400 members, down from more than 1,000 at the height of its high-profile kidnapping spree in early 2000.

The group has been linked to the al-Qaida network and was blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist group.

Raid starts

Dolina said the raiding team, which included bomb experts, barged into the house at 9 a.m.

Officials of Barangay Concepcion Dos and an officer of the homeowners association accompanied the team, which was armed with a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Antonio Eugenio.

About 12 suspected Abu Sayyaf members had been reportedly using the house since February, posing as traders peddling pirated DVDs. At least nine were photographed during covert surveillance and police were seeking the help of other law enforcement agencies in identifying them, Dolina said.

According to him, a locker in one of the rooms yielded five hand grenades, a rifle-fired grenade and what appeared to be a homemade bomb wrapped in detonating cord with about a kilogram of suspected explosive chemical powder.

The dilapidated house was furnished with only a single bed and an electric fan, prompting Dolina to speculate that the suspected bandits had been using the bungalow only to meet and store explosives.

Scare tactics

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), suspected authorities were linking terror threats to the planned anti-Arroyo protests on Labor Day to discourage a huge crowd.

"Malacañang is desperately resorting to all kinds of scare tactics to discourage people from joining the May 1 protests," Reyes said. "Just the same, we would be closely guarding our ranks."

Dolina, however, brushed aside such comments on the raid, saying documents seized from the house indicated the Abu Sayyaf was plotting bomb attacks in Metro Manila.

"It's better to be taunted and accused of that rather than be blamed later for sleeping on our job … Any life lost [during such an attack] would not be recovered," he said.

Links to JI?

Intelligence information indicated that an Abu Sayyaf "sleeper cell" of 10 militants had occupied the house on Champagne Street and was awaiting orders from Khaddafy Janjalani, Dolina said.

"Two to three days before the attack, they will receive instructions on how to carry out their plans," he said but did not elaborate on how police came by the information.

Dolina said police were also investigating whether the planned May Day attacks were to be carried out by the Abu Sayyaf in coordination with the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian arm of al-Qaida.

A Singapore-based security analyst last week said Abu Sayyaf leader Janjalani had been closely working with the JI's most wanted leader, Malaysian Noordin Mohammad Top.

Still premature

Top is said to be one of the lead recruiters in Southeast Asia of the JI, which wants to create an Islamic caliphate made up of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Mindanao and southern Thailand.

Even so, a senior police counterterrorism official told Reuters it was premature to link the crude bombs in the suspected hideout of the Abu Sayyaf militants to Labor Day protest rallies.

"We still need to validate that information," the official said, adding a militant cell hiding in Metro Manila had been under surveillance for months and could have been plotting a much larger attack.

Last week, security officials said they had disrupted a plot by militants to bomb shopping malls and public parks in two urban centers in Mindanao on or about Easter Sunday.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said earlier the PNP was also on alert for possible attempts by disgruntled troops to destabilize the Arroyo administration on Labor Day. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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8-yr-old Filipino tops int'l stamp tilt

From page A1

able mention in the same contest, Talisayon said.

Lea Anne "was very happy when she learned that she had won," her mother Leticia told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Leticia said her daughter, nicknamed Aya, had previously won several art awards. Certificates of recognition have filled up two books, she said.

Art teacher

Lea Anne, who finished at the top of her Grade 2 class this year, began drawing when she was in kindergarten.

The only girl of four children—her brothers are all in college—Lea Anne had always tagged along with her mom, an art and home economics teacher at Regidor Elementary School.

"I train art pupils while Lea Anne and I wait for her dad Antonio to finish his Grade 5 classes, also at Regidor. So, Lea Anne would join my students," Leticia said.

She recalled that her daughter, who was then only 5 years old, joined an on-the-spot drawing contest during a field trip of elementary students to the Manila Zoo.

Lea Anne's drawing of people interacting with the animals was among the finalists.

Word meaning

Leticia said she saw a poster about the South Korean contest at the Manila post office in September last year and encouraged her students to join it.

Of course, Lea Anne would not be left out. Leticia said she and the other teachers had to explain to their young students what the word "ubiquitous" meant.

Computers, Leticia said, were one way of making each other's presence felt everywhere.

The contest results were announced in November last year, but due to limited time, Leticia said she and her daughter were not able to attend the awarding ceremonies.

"Lea Anne was so disappointed. She likes to travel," Leticia said.

It was also expensive to travel to South Korea, she added.

As some sort of consolation, Leticia said, her daughter now has a bank account containing the cash prize she won in the competition. She refused to disclose the amount.

The South Korean Post Office began circulating the stamps bearing Lea Anne's design on April 21.

Celebration and pride

On April 24, South Korea's Information and Communication Day, newly appointed Minister Rho Jun-hyong presented the stamps to Philippine Ambassador Susan Castrence.

"Lea Anne's accomplishment, at such a very young age, is indeed cause for celebration and pride," Castrence said in a statement.

She said the recognition given to Lea Anne was simply a testimony "to the growing respect of the international community for Filipino artistry as well as the global, dynamic outlook that has become inherent to many Filipinos."

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2 more Bayan Muna leaders slain in Bicol

From page A1

identified assassins in separate attacks in Daet, Camarines Norte, and Daraga, Albay.

The back-to-back killings of Jayson Delen in Daet and Jim Mirafuentes in Daraga brought to more than 100 the number of militant activists murdered in different parts of the country since 2001.

Delen, Bayan Muna-Camarines Norte secretary general, was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle along Litana Street at 9:45 a.m., police said.

He suffered five bullet wounds and died on the spot, police added.

Death on the farm

Mirafuentes, a member of Bayan Muna and the president of a local urban poor association, was gunned down at around 9 a.m. in Kilicao village in Daraga, according to police.

Mirafuentes, 48, was tilling his farm in Sitio Matagbac when two of five unidentified men approached him and opened fire, said investigator SPO2 Francisco Mendevil.

The victim suffered bullet wounds in the head, neck and chest, De Castro said in a phone interview.

The murders occurred five days after Bayan Muna member Marilou Rubio and her brother were killed, also by unidentified men in General Nakar town in Quezon.

3-month timetable

De Castro linked the killings to a statement by Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief, that the "insurgency problem in Bicol had been cleaned up."

"We fear that he was referring to us, the legitimate organizations," De Castro said.

The military has denied any hand in the murders.

De Castro claimed the three-month timetable on the life of a targeted militant leader was in line with Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL), a purported military campaign to destroy the communist New People's Army and other leftist groups in five years' time.

He called Bantay Laya a "vicious" plan.

Special groups

"That's why there is always an OBL victim every three months in different areas across the country," he said.

De Castro alleged that various military commands had their own special intelligence groups whose sole task was to monitor sectoral organizations and identify target personalities for liquidation.

He said the main goal of the OBL as defined in the military plan was to destroy the revolutionary movement, including its political infrastructure, and sectoral front organizations.

"Meaning, the legal militant organizations like Bayan Muna," he said.

Like Oplan Phoenix

He likened OBL to the US' Oplan Phoenix during the Vietnam War that supposedly resulted in the massacre of innocent Vietnamese peasants.

"OBL differed only in the sense that the desired impact of the assassination is to sow fear and terror among members and supporters of the target personality," he said.

Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, Armed Forces spokesperson, has confirmed the existence of OBL but stressed it had nothing to do with legal leftist organizations.

Cabuay strongly denied accusations of military involvement in the killings and hinted the murders could have been perpetrated by NPA rebels themselves.

Claims all a rehash

Army Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, also rejected claims that soldiers were responsible for the killing of militants in Bicol.

"There they go again. The accusations from the leftist groups were all rehashed and were perpetual charges against the military," Broso said in a phone interview.

He added: "Why can't these groups just help in the police investigation to identify the suspects and file the corresponding charges, instead of being quick on the draw with all these baseless and unfounded allegations."

Broso stressed that the military's combat offensive was only directed at legitimate targets, the NPA guerrillas.

Killing their own

"The leftists can stage daily protests and rallies. The police antidisturbance units can very well take care of them," he said.

Cabuay hinted that the killing of activists could have been perpetrated by the NPA themselves in a fit of paranoia similar to the communist purges in the early 1990s.

In late March, Cris Hugo, League of Filipino Students regional coordinator, was gunned down in Legazpi City, Albay, while the wife and 5-year-old son of Anakpawis coordinator Amante Abelon were slain in Castillejos town in Zambales.

In the fourth quarter of 2005, three militant leaders were killed in Central Luzon. The victims included Ricardo Ramos, president of the workers' union at the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City.

‘Workers don’t have to rally for wage hikes’

From page A1

look after the welfare of our workers—this is also a requirement in life.”

He said employers should not only focus on profit and production costs. “We should include in the equation how we can raise salaries enough for the needs of the workers and their families.”

Demand Beltran’s release

Groups marching on Monday were also expected to press demands for the ouster of Ms Arroyo and to test the Supreme Court decision declaring as unconstitutional the administration’s “calibrated preemptive response” (CPR) policy that police had invoked in breaking up antigovernment rallies.

Members of Kilusang Mayo Uno, at the vanguard of previous May 1 rallies, announced that they would also press their demand for the release of party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, a KMU leader who has been detained for two months on rebellion charges.

Relatives and friends demanding justice for four slain Pamalakaya leaders—Oscar Sacdalan, Anthony Martinez, Roger Perez and Isaias Manano Jr.—set out from Lucena City in Quezon to join Monday’s rallies in Manila.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday issued an appeal to organizers of Monday’s rallies to respect the day meant for workers.

“It is not for rabble-rousers and lawless elements of our society to desecrate and destroy [the day] as part of their orchestrated efforts to bring down the government,” said Bunye. He said the President met with the National Security Council on Wednesday to discuss the rallies.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the NSC had received many pieces of information on destabilization plots but had found them “not credible.”

But he added that “our assessment is that we cannot discount the threats.”

Deployment

The military’s National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) deployed about 150 troops to the People Power Monument on Edsa yesterday morning as part of preparations for May 1, said Col. Tristran Kison, Armed Forces chief of public information.

The command will deploy about 1,000 civil disturbance management (CDM) troops to reinforce the 5,000 anti-riot policemen mobilized for the event, Kison said.

“We don’t have to explain why we’re putting soldiers out there, do we? You might accuse us of sleeping on the job,” said Maj. Gen. Jose Honrado, Armed Forces spokesperson.

He denied the troop deployment was aimed at preempting antigovernment groups planning to hold rallies in places like the People Power Monument.

“We’re out to preempt lawless elements taking advantage of rallies,” he said. He admitted though that they had not monitored any specific threats of violence during the May 1 rallies.

“It’s too early to say,” Honrado said.

More exercises

Yesterday, the troops practiced speedy deployment from general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo to the nearby People Power Monument in case they got a call for police reinforcement.

Similar exercises were expected around Malacañang today and another unspecified place in Metro Manila.

Gen. Generoso Senga. AFP chief of staff, has ordered all units to be on alert in case rogue soldiers take advantage of the Labor Day rallies to unseat Ms Arroyo.

Police in the capital have also been placed on red alert. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Blanche S. Rivera and Margaux C. Ortiz; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

REHEARSAL FOR “MAY DAY.” Members of the National Capital Regional Command go through a speedy mobilization exercise from Camp Aguinaldo to the People Power Monument on Edsa. JOAN BONDOC

Freedom . . .

From page A1

not the same kind of park that the Supreme Court, in a recent decision, urged local governments to put up as venues for public assemblies.

Squeezed between Kalayaan Hall and the Palace itself, the triangular park has been called Freedom Park for sometime now.

Malacañang Museum officials, however, said yesterday that old-timers in the area continued to refer to the park as Plaza Aviles, a name dating back to the 1800s.

So how did the park get its name or names?

The Palace museum officials said that Spanish government officials in the 1880s named the park Plaza Aviles after Conde de Aviles, a wealthy Filipino-Spaniard who extended the street Malacañang is on from Intramuros to Nagtahan.

A misnomer

During the American occupation in 1916, the park was called Plaza Liga Anti-Imperialista, a name that the museum officials said never caught on.

In 1966, the park was called Freedom Plaza to mark the seven-nation Vietnam War summit held in Manila at the time.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said it was a “misnomer” to call the place Freedom Park.

In any case, Bunye said that Malacañang and its vicinity remained off limits to ralliers and demonstrators.

He said that, like the Supreme Court, the executive branch deemed the area within a radius of 200 meters from Malacañang as being off-limits to ralliers.

Off limits to protesters

Bunye was referring to a 1998 Supreme Court guideline that “demonstrators, picketers, ralliers and their sympathizers are prohibited from camping out on the streets, sidewalks or pavement, adjacent to, in front of, or within a radius of 200 meters from, the outer boundary of the Supreme Court building, any Hall of Justice, and any other building that houses at least one court sala.”

“The Palace, which is the seat of the executive branch, the official residence of the First Family, and the venue for hosting local and international dignitaries, deserves the same, if not more, protection,” Bunye said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the area around Malacañang was an exclusion zone.

Old name lives on

“The principle of exclusion zones is that they are always for security reasons,” Gonzalez said. He noted that even the US White House bars aircraft from flying within a three-mile radius.

Still, museum officials prefer to call the park Plaza Aviles, as residents first called it centuries ago.

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PRODUCT	0%	PRODUCT	0%
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NR-A605E (8.0 cuft)	P 3,167. / 3 months	Freezer N-210S	P 2,888. / 12 months
Upright Freezer NR-A805FSW (8.0 cuft)	P 5,100. / 3 months	WHIRLPOOL Chest Type Freezer WHB-9 (9.0 cuft)	P 3,250. / 6 months
FRIGIDAIRE Side-by-Side Refrigerator FRSF25V4C (25.0 cuft)	P 9,159 / 12 months	Split Type Aircon ASK-09 (1.0 HP)	P 3,500. / 6 months
		Refrigerator WSN12SL (12.0 cuft, silver gray)	P 4,250. / 6 months

PRODUCT	SPECIAL PRICE	PRODUCT	SPECIAL PRICE
CARRIER Floor Mounted Split Type Aircon 3.0TR ASBFM360BA	P 50,738	KOLIN Window Type Aircon KAG-06RE (Remote, 0.75 HP)	P 11,990
		KAG-11ME (1.0 HP)	P 13,235
CONDURA Refrigerator CS050SA (5.0 cuft)	P 8,695	Personal Refrigerator KRD-70A (1.8 cuft)	P 5,410
SAMSUNG Refrigerator with Built-in Water Dispenser RA-20VHSS	P 10,995	SHARP Refrigerator SJ-37M (0.7 cuft)	P 19,398
Window Type Aircon AW-05MOYBC (0.55 HP)	P 8,295	LG Refrigerator GC-131 (5.4 cuft)	P 6,995
WESTINGHOUSE/ELECTROLUX 2-Door No-Frost Refrigerator WR-4505D (15.0 cuft, white)	P 29,000	GR-212DLN (7.0 cuft)	P 12,995

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Cebu:
Ayala Center Cebu
Tel. nos. (032) 2321001-02

Cubao:
Value Station Arcade, Araneta Center
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Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City
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Galleria:
Expansion Mall, Robinsons Galleria
Tel nos. 6320672-73
Glorietta
Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Tel. nos. 7296450-52

Greenbelt
G/F, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center
Tel. nos. 7503316-18
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Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center
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west wing, SM Southmall
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Robinson's Place Metroeast
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Zabarte
Zabarte town center
Tel. no. 9624185

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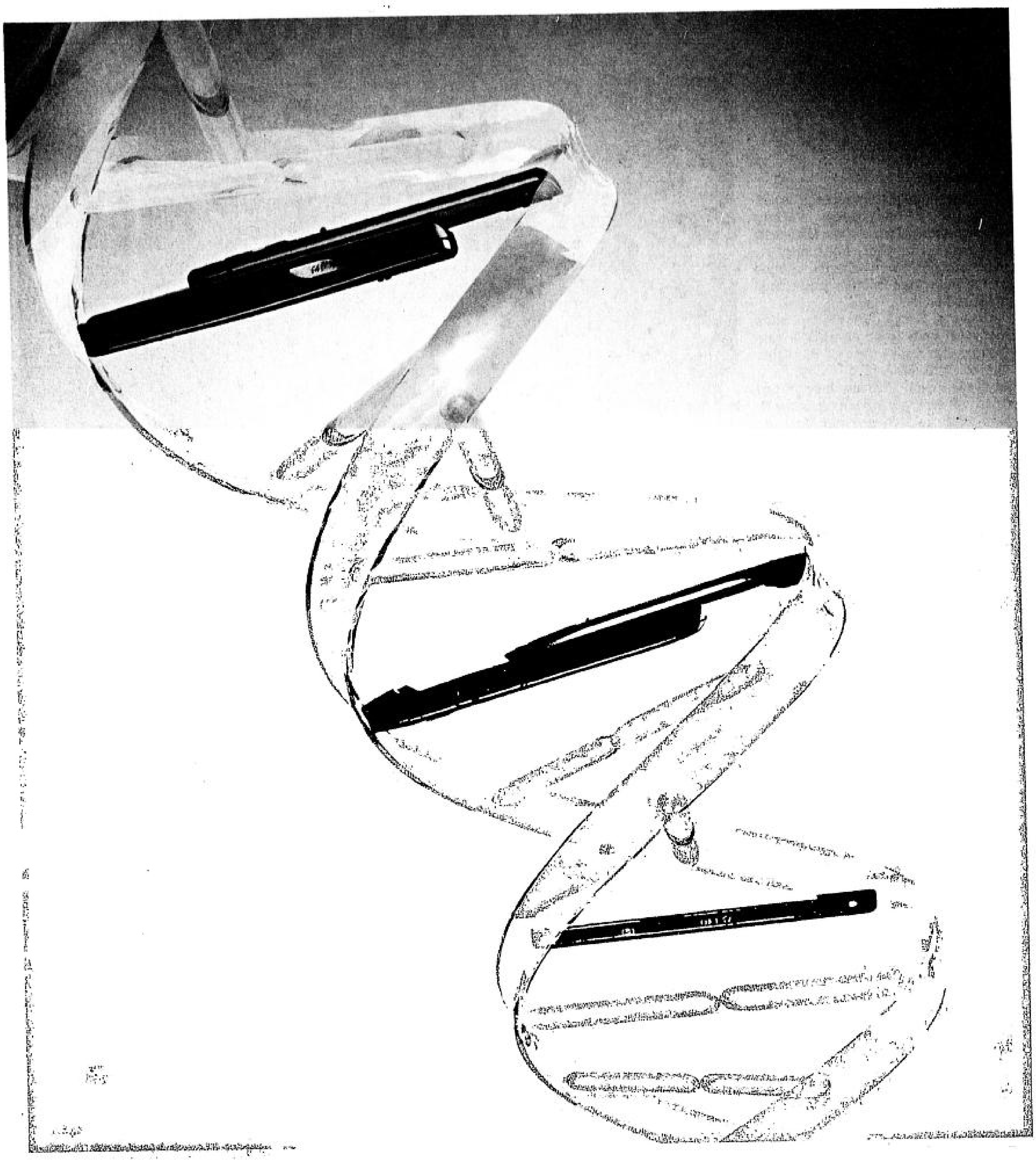

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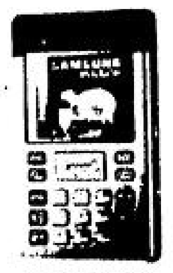

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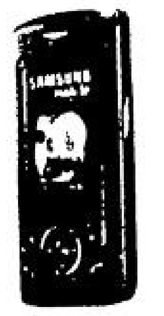

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MARCOS

'We want Marcoses' money, not apology'

A COMMISSIONER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said he was more interested in the Marcoses' money than an apology.

Since Ferdinand Marcos' ouster in a "people power" revolt in 1986 and his death three years later, his family had refused to admit any wrongdoing. His widow Imelda and his three children have resisted calls to apologize for his 20-year strongman rule and corruption.

"I think the issue of apology is between Imelda Marcos and her God. That is a moral issue," PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said. "I would rather have Imelda Marcos' millions than slit her throat."

Abcede is pushing for a possible compromise agreement with Mrs. Marcos in resolving over 500 criminal and civil cases involving alleged corruption of the Marcoses and their cronies that have been tied up in litigation for the past 20 years.

Abcede's drive to reach the compromise—particularly in not seeking an apology—has been denounced by Karapatan, a human rights group, which said Abcede was "insensitive to the victims of Marcos rule."

"This is a heinous crime, not petty theft," said the group's secretary general, Marie Enriquez. "This is a slap on the face of the victims of martial law and generations of Filipinos who lost the opportunity to live a decent life just because of personal greed and corruption."

Secret deal

In 1998, the Supreme Court stopped the commission from entering into any compromise agreement with the Marcos family after a secret 1993 agreement for a 75-25 sharing of the Marcos wealth was uncovered.

The court said it would have given the Marcoses "a license to perpetrate fraud against the government without any liability" and would set "a dangerous precedent for public accountability."

The government has recovered about P80 billion in cash and assets from the Marcoses and their associates over two decades, including Swiss bank deposits now worth about $680 million.

Abcede, in charge of the good government commission's assets management department, said about P220 billion worth of assets are tied up in criminal and civil cases in the Philippines against the Marcoses and their cronies.

The amount of Marcoses' assets abroad is unknown.

Abcede said he recently met Imelda Marcos, known for her huge shoe collection and shopping sprees during her heyday, who told him she wanted "to leave a legacy and to help the poor Filipinos."

Abcede said Mrs. Marcos bragged her family still had enough money to pay the government debt of about P3.965 trillion. He said there have been no documents to back up the claim.

He said he was in talks on a possible compromise settlement with her representative. He declined to give any details of sharing of the Marcos wealth, saying the talks were in the "exploratory stage." *AP*

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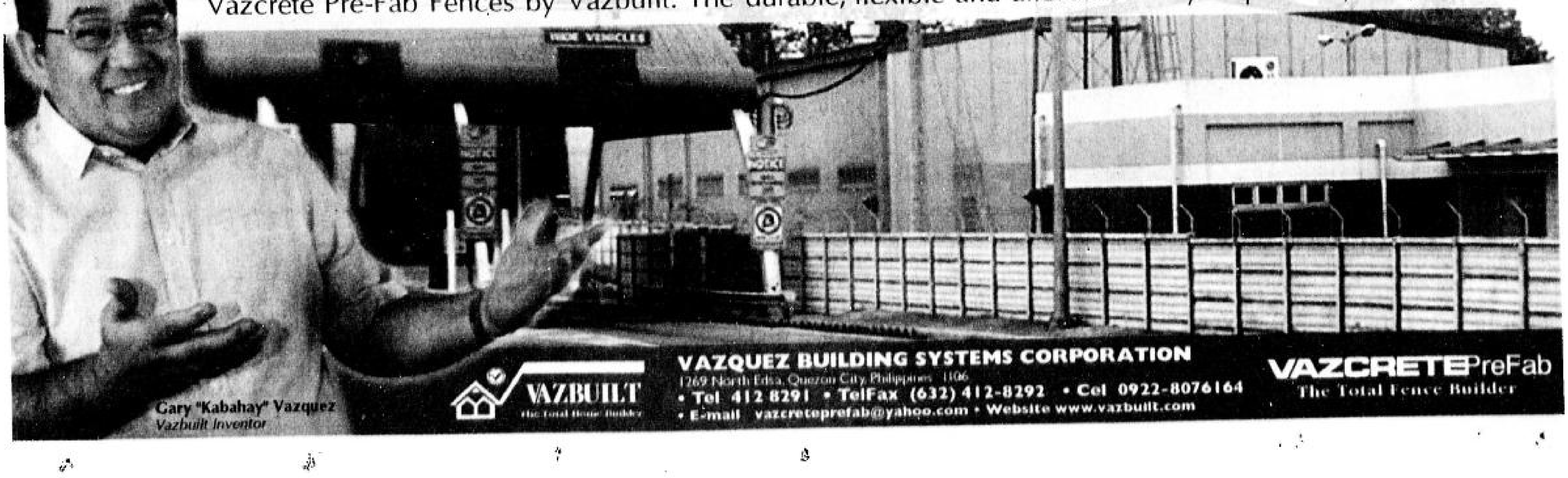

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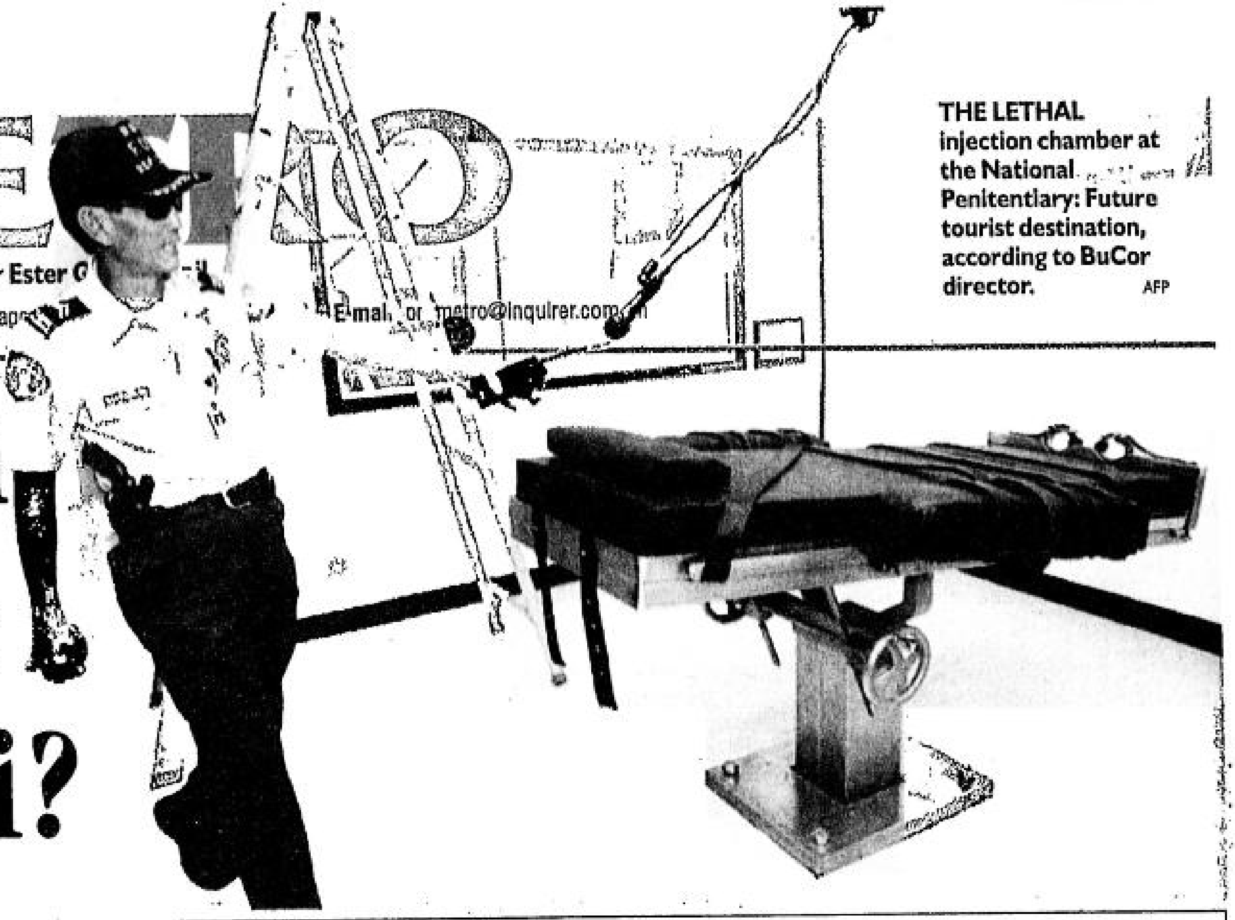

THE LETHAL injection chamber at the National Penitentiary: Future tourist destination, according to BuCor director. AFP

From death room to museum of the macabre in Munti?

Execution fixtures part of collection

By TJ Burgonio

WITH PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo dead set on abolishing the death penalty, the country's prisons chief is now thinking of an alternative use for the lethal injection chamber.

Vicente Vinarao spoke yesterday of how the "death chamber" in the sprawling New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City could perhaps become a museum of prison memorabilia, including "execution" implements, in the future.

The director of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) said he did not mind if the chamber, built in 1995, a year after capital punishment was revived, becomes a tourist stop.

"If the death penalty is abolished, the lethal injection chamber should be saved as part of the history of the Bureau of Corrections so people will know that once upon a time this country used lethal injection as a mode of execution," he said.

The BuCor has collected a number of items that could be put on display in the future "museum," said Vinarao at a press forum yesterday. They include black metal balls chained to prisoners' legs, the electric chair and the custom-made bed last used in 1999 to put to sleep convicted rapist Pablito Andan.

Plans

Vinarao supervised the execution of seven death convicts since the chamber was built 11 years ago. Renovated in 2001 and repainted in 2004, it has a phone with a direct line to the President, monitors, lights, a fax machine and air-conditioning.

Vinarao's future plans for the death chamber came about after Ms Arroyo's Easter announcement commuting to life imprisonment the death sentences of people convicted of heinous crimes. Arroyo subsequently certified a House bill for the abolition of the death penalty.

"I'm predicting that the death penalty will be abolished," Vinarao told reporters after the forum.

He defended Arroyo's decision to commute the sentences of all 1,118 death convicts, saying she was well within her constitutional right to grant reprieve, commutation or pardon. "The law does not say the commutation should be done on a case to case basis," he said.

Pro-life

While he was symbolically the "chief executioner," Vinarao admitted he was "pro-life" at heart.

"Although I was responsible for putting up the chamber, and providing the procedures, I believe that life is valuable. I believe that correctional services should be restorative, productive and humane," he said.

"Do you know that not all people in Muntinlupa are really guilty? About 40 or 50 percent of them are not guilty. They are only poor, and they can't have good lawyers, " he added.

In the same forum, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said a recent report in the United States saying that lethal injection was not entirely painless was another argument for the abolition of the death penalty.

"It's not painless, as claimed," he said, pointing out that in the transition from the first to the third and final stage of lethal injection, the death convict felt some pain, though he "can't express it anymore."

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of the Volunteers against Crime and Corruption, pleaded with the administration to take a second look at the death penalty law and asked that it be abolished only when an efficient system for crime-fighting has been set in place.

METROBRIEFS

Firemen rescue 9 from burning building

DESPITE their lack of equipment, firefighters rescued nine people including four children and an 84-year-old woman at the upper floor of a burning three-story building in Caloocan City at dawn yesterday, according to the City's Fire Marshall Chief Insp. Juan Reyes. The rescued victims were Ralph Renz Martinez 13, Ryan Martinez 8, Betsy Santos 14, Lovely Nepumuceno 11, Rodelio Martinez, 19, Ronwaldo Martinez 24, Emerlita Libiran 84, her husband Rogelio 67 and Charity Villar 22. Reyes said the victims were shouting and waving their hands for help from the second and third floors of the building located at no. 55 A. Mabini St., Caloocan City. He said the commercial and residential building owned by couple Rogelio and Emerlita Libiran housed several establishments, including Cokey's bar, where the fire allegedly started. The fire, which broke out at around 2:22 am and lasted for more than an hour, was declared under control at 3:45 a.m. Estimated damage was placed at P1.5 million. Reyes commended his men along with other fire volunteers who took great risks did not think twice about rescuing the residents even if they lacked firefighting equipment. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

QC regulates drilling of water wells

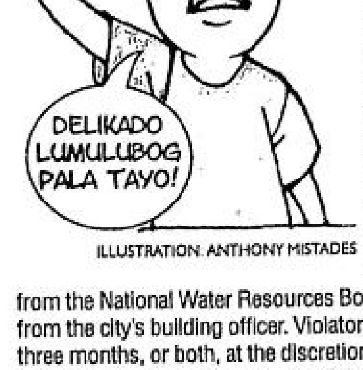

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

THE QUEZON City council has approved the Sustainable Groundwater Utilization Ordinance, setting the rules and guidelines in the drilling of water wells in the city. Under the measure, the city will only allow the establishment and operation of wells in areas where surface water is not provided by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, or its concessionaires. But the extraction of water will still be limited to 5,000 cubic meters per month for household use, or the volume specified in the water permit, if for other purposes. In areas where surface water is provided by the MWSS, or its concessionaires, but not on a 24-hour basis, drilling a well may be permitted, provided that it will only be used as a back-up water source. Owners or operators of wells are also required to secure a water permit from the National Water Resources Board and a sanitary and plumbing permit from the city's building officer. Violators shall be fined P5,000, or imprisoned for three months, or both, at the discretion of the court. The ordinance was authored by Councilors Jorge Banal Jr. and Ariel Inton, who stressed the importance of ensuring a sustainable water supply, while considering the decline in land surface elevation and possible water contamination. Experts have attributed the "sinking" of cities to excessive groundwater extraction. *DJ Yap*

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OTW-575
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CONTACT HEALTH GRILL
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P1,579
ELECTRIC OVEN WITH GRILL
OTW-5568
- Upper/ Lower Heating Selector
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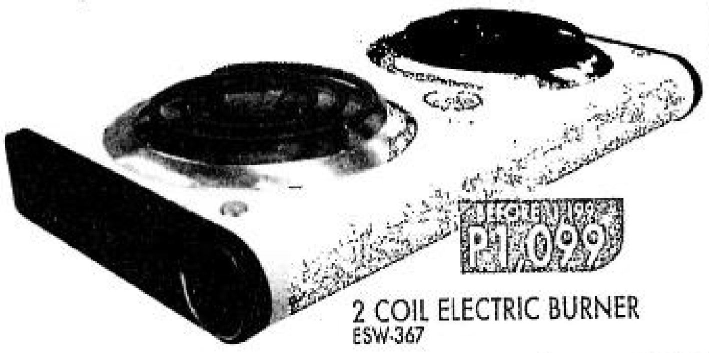
- 1.8 Liters Capacity

BEFORE: 2,149
P1,949
TURBO BROILER
COW-5551
- Glass Jar



BEFORE: 1,199
P1,099
2 COIL ELECTRIC BURNER
ESW-367

BEFORE: 359
P329
CORDLESS ELECTRIC KETTLE
WCK-2017
- 1.7 Liters Capacity
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P529
COFFEE MAKER
WCM-3021
- 10 Cups
- Auto Heat Plate

BEFORE: 589
P539
HANDMIXER
WITH BOWL
WBL-5605
- 7 Speed Hand Mixer
- 2 Beaters
- with Mixing Bowl

BEFORE: 1,599
P1,499
MEAT SLICER
CKW-617
- 3 Speed Control
- 170mm Diameter Stainless Blade
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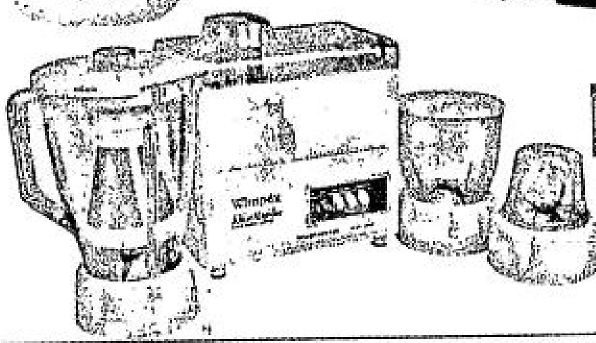

BEFORE: 1,849
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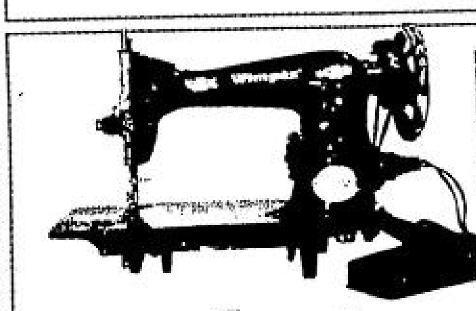
4-IN-1 FOOD PROCESSOR
D40BL
- Stainless Steel Spinner
- 300 Watts Motor



BEFORE: 1,999
P1,799
SEWING MACHINE
WCSM-888

BEFORE: 2,499
P2,249
VACUUM CLEANER
WV-321/819
- Automatic Power Cord Winder
- 360 Degrees Rotory Tube
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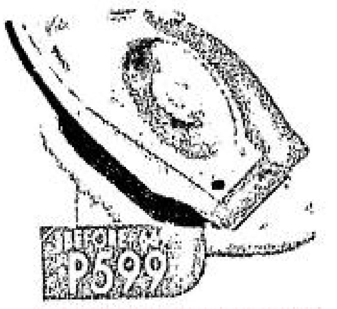
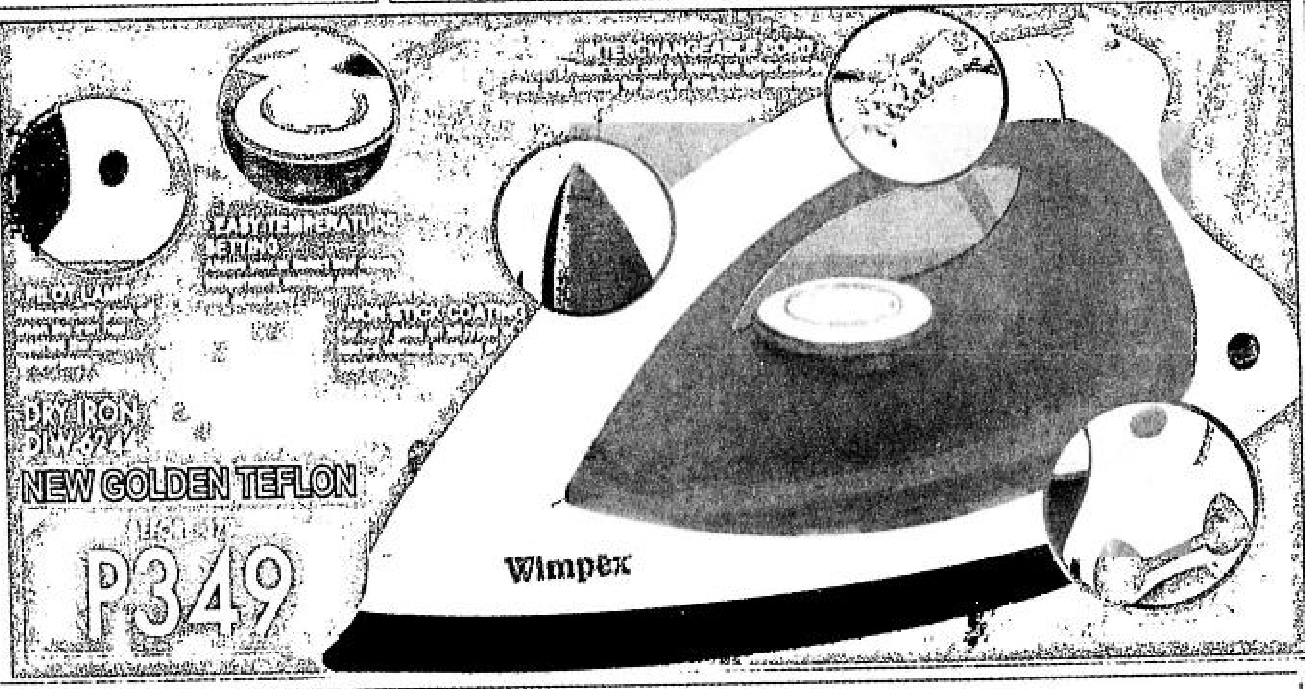
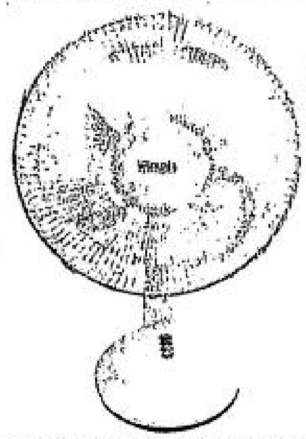


BEFORE: [illegible]
P599
CORDLESS STEAM IRON
SIW-600
- Transparent Water Tank



DRY IRON
DIW-624
NEW GOLDEN TEFLON
BEFORE: [illegible]
P349



DESK FAN 16"
WST-434
- 3 Speed Function
- Plastic Fan Blade

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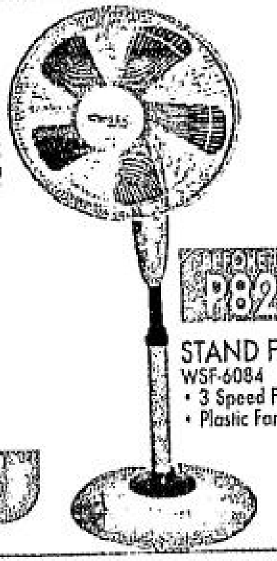
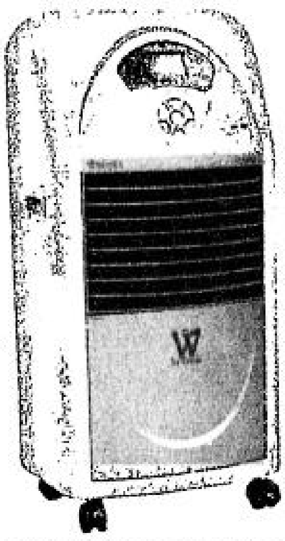
P549



BEFORE: [illegible]
P829
STAND FAN 16"
WSF-6084
- 3 Speed Function
- Plastic Fan Blade



BEFORE: 3,999
P3,599
AIR COOLER
WAC-34
- Digital Electronic Control
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- LCD Display
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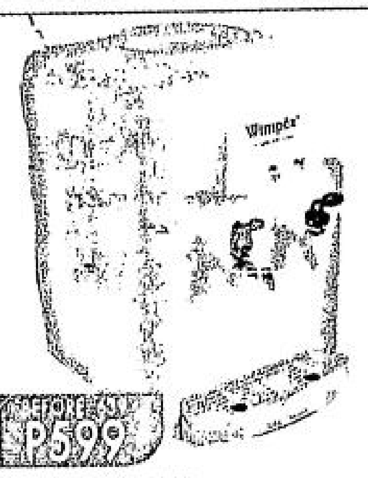
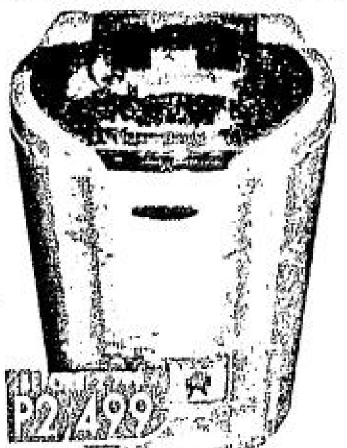
- 3 Speed Setting
- 7.5 Hours on/off timer



BEFORE: [illegible]
P599
WATER DISPENSER
TABLE TOP/ HOT & NORMAL
D31WD

BEFORE: [illegible]
P4,499
WATER DISPENSER
HOT & COLD
WWD-629
- Compressor Cooling
- Floor Standing



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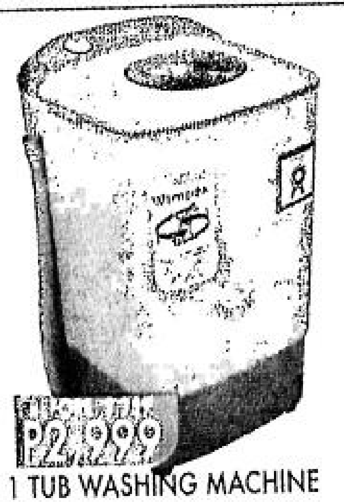
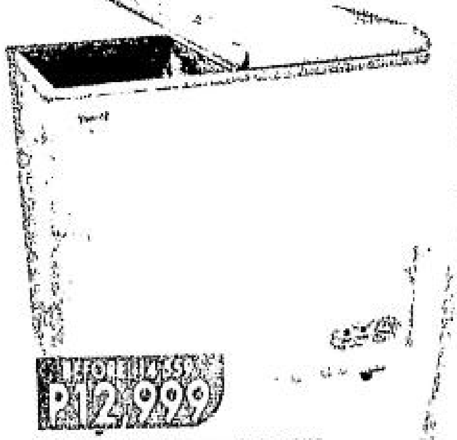


BEFORE: [illegible]
P2,999
1 TUB WASHING MACHINE
S-68
- 6.8 Kgs. Capacity
- Plastic Body

BEFORE: [illegible]
P5,149
2 TUB WASHING MACHINE
T-17B
- 7.8 Kgs. Capacity
- Plastic Body

BEFORE: [illegible]
P9,699
CHEST FREEZER
WF-102
- Fast Freezing
- Plastic Cover



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75	95	72	86	99

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65.90 659 PER CASE	53.80 [illegible] PER CASE
79	56.66 [illegible] PER CASE

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32

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PRICE PER KG

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16	17	16

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PRICE PER KG

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29	42	39
35	49	45

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  1 pack

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= P734

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SAVE P30

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- Red
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P20 SAVINGS

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  45gx24

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175.20 PER PACK

SUNSILK
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nepal Maoist rebs call 3-month truce

KATMANDU—MAOIST REBELS IN NEPAL CALLED A three-month ceasefire Thursday after a "people's movement" forced the nation's monarch to recall parliament after a four-year gap.

Prime Minister-designate Girija Prasad Koirala, 84, was due to address crowds at a rally Thursday after Maoists answered politicians' pleas for a ceasefire a day before the nation's mothballed parliament reopens.

The rebels first rejected King Gyanendra's offer to reconvene parliament after weeks of street protests saying it did not go far enough after nearly 15 months of absolute rule.

But opposition politicians, and crowds who flooded the streets, claimed victory in their struggle against the king and the capital Katmandu started to return to normal.

In a statement early Thursday, rebel leader Prachanda said the rebels would halt offensive operations after a bloody 10-year insurgency that has left more than 12,500 dead.

"Our party once again declares a unilateral ceasefire, effective immediately, for three months," said Prachanda, after a series of earlier truces had failed to break the political deadlock.

The rebel army would stop attacking security services, but would remain in "active defense position," said a statement from the Maoist leader.

He said the move was designed to "motivate" political leaders to call elections for a constituent assembly, tasked with redrafting the constitution.

Maoists were expected to hold a meeting at a public ground in Katmandu, their first for three years in the capital, on Friday to coincide with the opening of parliament.

The rebels want a new constitution to end the monarch's tight grip over the armed forces and political life in the troubled Himalayan nation.

Gyanendra seized total power almost 15 months ago after sacking the government, accusing it of corruption and of failing to quell the decade-long Maoist rebellion.

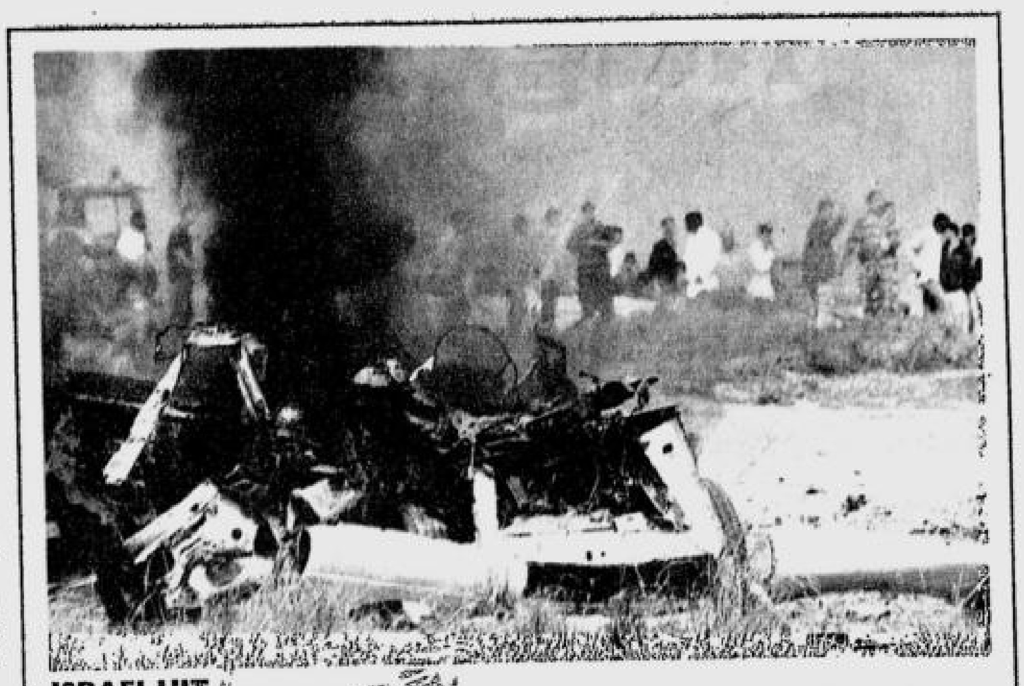
The Maoist statement early Thursday followed the killing of a policeman in a bomb blast at a checkpoint Wednesday at Nuwakot, 70 km north of the capital, according to state media.

At the parliamentary buildings in Katmandu, workers were connecting phone lines, repairing telephones and cleaning up ahead of Friday's reopening.

Some 200 of the 205 members sitting in 2002, when parliament was dissolved after a political row over the king's power, were expected to attend.

At least one legislator has died and four have lost their seats by quitting their parties during the four-year hiatus, according to the Katmandu Post.

The lower House speaker, seen as close to the king, has also resigned. *AFP*



ISRAEL HIT
A car burns after an Israeli missile strike in Gaza April 27. Two Palestinian militants who survived the strike were killed soon after by another missile as they ran from the scene. REUTERS

Suicide bombers attack peacekeepers, police in Sinai

CAIRO, EGYPT—TWO SUICIDE ATTACKERS targeting international peacekeepers and police blew themselves up Wednesday, two days after nearly simultaneous bombings killed at least 21 people at a resort in the Sinai Peninula.

Egyptian Interior Minister Habib el-Adly said all the blasts this week were linked to terror attacks against Sinai resorts last year and in 2004.

"The information we have indicates that (the perpetrators) are Sinai Bedouin, and the latest operations are linked to the previous attacks," el-Adly told state television, referring to the terror attacks in the Sinai resorts of Sharm el-Sheik last July and Taba in October 2004.

Egyptian authorities—eager not to further damage the Sinai's vital tourist trade by linking al-Qaida to the bombings—have blamed Bedouin tribesmen for past attacks. But some outside intelligence officials have said groups linked to Osama bin Laden's terror organization were the more likely suspects.

The largely impoverished peninsula, a barren expanse where Bedouin eke out a meager existence and tourists luxuriate in seaside hotels, has become fertile ground for terrorists, who have hit the Multinational Force and Observer peacekeepers twice in less than a year—both times after larger and bloodier attacks on Sinai resorts.

Wednesday's attacks were unsophisticated—one bomber was riding a bicycle—and only the militants died. *AP*

EU probers say CIA carried out over 1,000 secret flights

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—THE CIA has conducted more than 1,000 clandestine flights in Europe since 2001, and some of them secretly took away terror suspects to countries where they could face torture, European Union lawmakers said.

Legislators selected to look into allegations of questionable CIA activities in Europe said Wednesday that flight data showed a pattern of hidden operations by American agents, and they accused some European governments of knowing about it but remaining silent.

Cases of terror suspects being secretly handed over to US agents did not appear to be isolated, the lawmakers said in a preliminary report on their inquiry. European human rights treaties prohibit sending suspects to states known to torture prisoners.

"The committee deplores the fact that, as established during the committee's investigation, the CIA has used aircraft registered under fictitious company names or with private companies to secretly transfer terror suspects to other countries including Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Afghanistan," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

The CIA declined to comment, as did European Union officials, who have said previously that there was no irrefutable proof of such hand-overs, which are known as "extraordinary renditions."

The investigation began in January after news reports that US agents had interrogated al-Qaida suspects at secret prisons in eastern Europe. But the focus shifted after people gave detailed accounts of being abducted by US agents in Europe and whisked away to jails in the Middle East, Asia and North Africa. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Ex-US teacher in sex charge jailed again

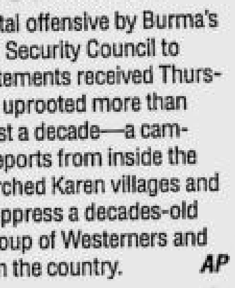
ROGERS AP

McMINNVILLE, Tennessee—A former teacher who served time in jail after being accused of having sex with a 13-year-old boy was arrested for the second time in two weeks, with prosecutors saying she contacted the victim again and sent him sexually explicit videos of herself. A judge on Wednesday ordered Pamela Rogers, 28, who had been free on bond after an April 11 arrest on a probation violation charge, to remain in jail until a July hearing. The latest charges contend that Rogers, who was arrested Monday, reached the now-14-year-old student by cell phone just hours after her April 12 court appearance. Authorities said she previously contacted with the boy and his teenage sister by text messages and via the Internet. Rogers pleaded no contest last year to having sexual intercourse and oral sex with the student, who attended the elementary school where she formerly taught. *AP*

Atrocities reported in Burma offensive

BANGKOK, Thailand—US lawmakers condemned a brutal offensive by Burma's Army against ethnic minority civilians, calling on the UN Security Council to take urgent action against the country's ruling junta, statements received Thursday said. Burma (also known as Myanmar) troops have uprooted more than 11,000 Karen civilians in their biggest offensive in almost a decade—a campaign punctuated by torture and killings, according to reports from inside the country and Thailand. Troops in eastern Burma have torched Karen villages and sent inhabitants fleeing into jungles in a campaign to suppress a decades-old insurgency, say reports from Free Burma Rangers, a group of Westerners and ethnic volunteers who provide aid to displaced people in the country. *AP*

Rove testifies again on CIA leak

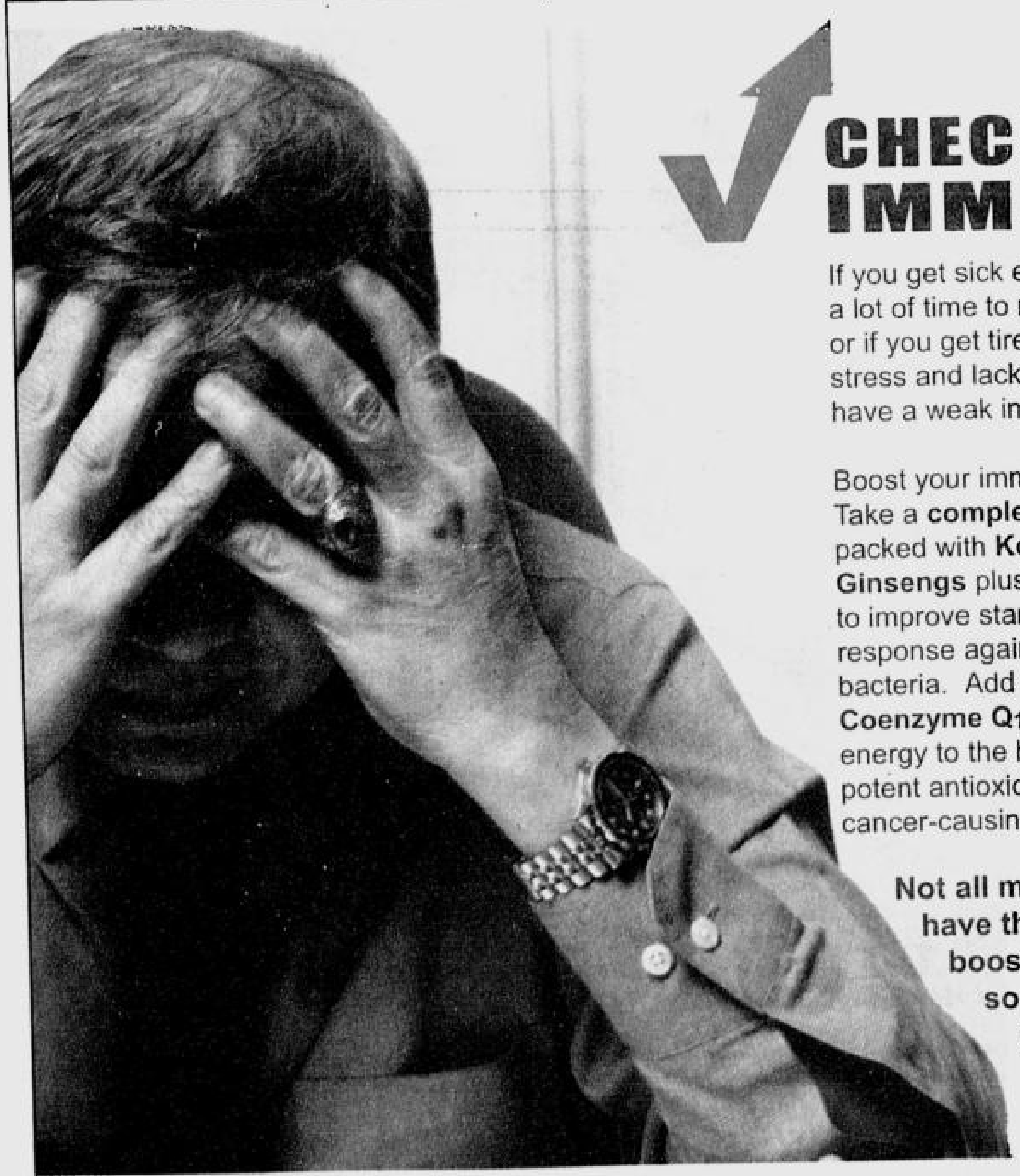


ROVE AFP

WASHINGTON—Karl Rove, the senior advisor to President Bush, testified for several hours on Wednesday before the federal grand jury in the CIA leak case, in an appearance that was a sign of renewed attention by the special prosecutor in a matter that has lingered unresolved for months. It was the fifth time Rove has appeared before a federal grand jury in the case. The appearance came at a politically sensitive time for Rove, who was relieved of his policy advisor's role at the White House in a staff reshuffling earlier this month and who now faces the challenge of helping Republicans maintain their primacy in the midterm elections this fall. Rove last testified to the grand jury in October, and his lawyer has said he is not a major figure in the leak inquiry and would ultimately be exonerated. To date, the only criminal charges in the case, which involves the exposure of a CIA operative's identity, have been brought against I. Lewis Libby Jr., the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, who was charged with lying and obstruction of justice last November and is preparing for trial. The prosecutor, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, has declined to comment on Rove's status, saying publicly only that he is continuing to explore outstanding issues in the case. *NYT*

Thousands displaced after S. Lanka strikes

COLOMBO—Thousands of frightened people have been left homeless in northeastern Sri Lanka after government air strikes on suspected Tamil Tiger rebel positions, the rebels and a UN official said Thursday. "More than 40,000 people have been displaced and are languishing as refugees," the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement. International aid workers and truce monitors were awaiting the opening of main roads to the rebel-held regions of Trincomalee for an assessment of the refugee crisis, diplomats in the capital said. The military launched the bombardments from Russian and Israeli jets after a woman pretending to be pregnant blew herself up at Army headquarters in the capital, about 260 km from Trincomalee on Tuesday. The suicide bombing targeted the head of the Army, leaving him severely wounded. He was among 30 people hurt while 10 others died. *AFP*



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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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PBA ALL-STAR FEVER RISING IN CAGAYAN DE ORO
Fans looking forward to today's kick-off of the PBA All-Star weekend in Cagayan de Oro City get autographs from Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag (above left) and Asi Taulava and welcome Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva (right) in yesterday's PBA Fans Day. Well-balanced teams from the North and South clash on Saturday. Meanwhile, the rookies battle the sophomores in today's slam-bang schedule that also features the slam dunk competition, among other skills contests.

Story on A30 ERIK ARAZAS

Painters prevail, wrest solo lead

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RAIN OR SHINE POUNCED ON HAPEE-PCU'S CRUCIAL error down the stretch to post a 62-59 squeaker and grab the solo lead in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque yesterday.

Nursing a slim 60-59 edge, the Elasto Painters watched the Teethmasters' usually dependable Jason Castro give it all away with a wild pass. The win was Rain or Shine's seventh in nine matches.

Jun Jun Cabatu sealed the victory for the Elasto Painters with two free throws off Gabby Espinas with only 14 seconds remaining.

Heroes Cup Most Valuable Player Jojo Tangkay led Rain or Shine with 13 points, 12 of them in the second half, while Marvin Ortiguerra and Jay-R Reyes combined for 22 points and 10 rebounds.

"It was a close win, it was so hard but I told you, all the teams now are strong," coach Leo Austria said in Filipino. "Good thing, they (Teethmasters) turned the ball over."

Earlier, LA Tenorio got the better of his showdown with Boyet Bautista as Harbour Centre exacted a vengeful 80-71 victory over Toyota Otis and kept its quarterfinals bid alive.

Humbled the last time out, Tenorio made sure there would be no more meltdown just like what happened in their first meeting won by the Sparks, 76-74. The 5-foot-8 spitfire came through with a 3-point shot in the final two minutes to take the sting out of the Sparks.

The former Ateneo ace finished with 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting, including 3-of-4 from the three-point area, and grabbed five boards to help Harbour Centre to its third win in 9 starts.

The Sparks, who scored an 82-80 come-from-behind win over TeleTech the last time out, slipped to 6-3.

Bautista, the team's hero in their last two wins, wound up with 13 points, three rebounds and two assists.

"That's the Tenorio I've known before, sharp and quick," said coach Jorge Gallent. "I'm so glad that LA and Joseph (Yeo) played their usual roles just like during their UAAP days. I hope to get more from them in our future games."

Games Tomorrow
(Olivarez Sports Center, Parañaque)
2 p.m.—TeleTech vs Montana Pawnshop
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia

The high-leaping Yeo also made good account of himself, finishing with a game-high 17 points on an impressive 8-of-16 shooting from the field. He also dished out six assists, grabbed four boards and stole once in 32 minutes of action.

The Sparks fell behind by 18 points midway in the second quarter as Harbour's Chico Lanete waxed hot, scoring 10 of his 14 points.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 80—Yeo 17, Tenorio 15, Lanete 14, Arana 11, Gamboa 8, Gaco 7, Malerhofer 4, Alonzo 2, Saguindel 2, Chia 0, Paterno 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 71—Devance 16, Bautista 13, Aban 11, Andaya 7, Fajardo 6, Daa 5, Aldave 4, Caslo 4, Cabahug 3, Larong 2, Corobel 0, Alcaraz 0, Oreta 0, Rodriguez 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 44-32, 67-57, 80-71.

Second Game

RAIN OR SHINE 62—Tangkay 13, Ortiguerra 12, Reyes 10, Cabatu 8, Sta. Maria 6, Malabanan 4, Sagad 4, Eman 3, Enrile 2, Orbeta 0, Tan 0.

HAPEE 59—Espinas 13, Moreno 11, Belga 9, Castro 8, Solis 6, Sanz 6, Guevarra 4, Baculi 2, Canlas 0, Gonzales 0, Garrido 0.

Quarters: 13-10, 29-22, 46-43, 62-59.

La Salle: Suspension 'excessively punitive'

By Jasmine W. Payo

CALLING THE UAAP DECISION "VAGUE" AND "excessively punitive," De La Salle University yesterday protested against the severity of the one-year penalty the league's board imposed on the school for fielding two ineligible players in the men's basketball tournament.

"This sanction is grossly disproportionate to the negligence—if that were so—of DLSU," said school president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, in a press conference yesterday at the North Conservatory on the La Salle campus.

The UAAP board, in a unanimous verdict, imposed the one-year ban from all league sports on La Salle, saying it was through the school's negligence that Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian gained entry into the team despite holding spurious academic records.

"We believe that the decision to suspend DLSU in all sporting events is excessively punitive," said Bro. Edmundo Fernandez, FSC, head of the De La Salle brothers.

La Salle has already sent a letter to UAAP president Fr. Max Rendon, CM, seeking clarification of the league's decision.

"The decision of the board raises more questions than it provides answers," said Fernandez.

"We want to get a better understanding of what the judgment of the UAAP is," added Joaquin Quintos, chair of La Salle's board of trustees. "Upon hearing the response of the UAAP, the La Sallian family will make a decision."

Luistro said La Salle is still considering several options, ranging from filing an appeal to taking the case to the courts to pulling out of the league.

"All our options are open," said Luistro. "It's difficult to bring to court a statement or a letter which, from the very beginning, is vague. Bolting from the UAAP is also among the options."

School officials pointed out that the UAAP board disregarded the pertinent documents and interviews La Salle submitted "to prove that there was no complicity in the anomaly."

So wins anew, climbs to third

FILIPINO WHIZ KID Fide Master Wesley So kept his fiery form by beating International Master Fouad El Taher of Egypt in the fourth round late Wednesday of the 8th Dubai Open chess tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

The 12-year-old So prevailed with white in 22 moves of a Bishop Opening to raise his total to 3.5 points and climb to an seven-way tie for third place.

Grandmasters Evgenij Miroshnichenko of Ukraine and Giorgi Kacheishvili of Georgia kept the lead with 4.0.

Tied with So were GMs Zviad Izoria, Darmen Sadvakasov, Gabriel Sargissian, Ehsan Maghami, Sergey Fedorchuk and Tamaz Gelashvili.

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Tough RP boxing squad vying in Turkey tourney

A WELL-HONED PHILIPPINE BOXING TEAM, DEEP IN TRAINING FOR THE 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, is set to see action in the Ahmet Comet Cup XXI International Senior and Female boxing championships from May 1-8 in Istanbul, Turkey. Bantamweight Joan Tipon and lightweight Mitchel Martinez, both Asian champions, will spearhead the Philippine campaign in the slugfest that is expected to draw world-caliber European and Asian boxers. "We're all out in our bid to contribute to the Philippine cause in the Doha Asiad," said Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines and second vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee. Also seeing action in the event are Albert Pabila, Warlito Parrenas, Anthony Marcial, Gretchen Abaniel and Jennifer Pecking.

Canaleta ready to bring house down once more

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO—THE CROWD USUALLY GETS INTO A FRENZY the moment Niño Canaleta touches the ball. Without being fancy, he can transform a simple dunk into a classy act.

Expect Canaleta to draw raves again when the Air21 Express wingman defends his throne in the slam-dunk competition of the 2006 Hope PBA-All Star Weekend today at the Xavier University here.

A many-time, slam-dunk champ in the amateurs, the 6-foot-7 Canaleta brought his act to the PBA last season and clinched the crown in a dunk-off with surprise finalist Enrico Villanueva of Red Bull during the All-Star extravaganza in Laoag City.

"I feel good coming into the competition," said Canaleta in Filipino. "There's no pressure to win the title. I just want to entertain the fans."

But Canaleta will not be alone to wow the crowd in this populous southern city this year. Past champions have returned to contest his dominance in the event sponsored by Xtreme Magic Sing and Welcoat Paints.

San Miguel's Brandon Cablay, the king of slam in 2003, and 2004 titlist Cyrus Baguio of Red Bull have signed up to challenge Canaleta.

"I haven't competed against Niño in a slam-dunk contest before," said Baguio, who captured the title in Cebu City two years ago. "I'll try something new this time. This will be a lot of fun."

Canaleta is aiming to become the first player to win the dunk challenge two in a row since 1993, when Vergel Meneses followed up his victory in 1992 with a captivating, title-clinching effort.

Coca-Cola's John Arigo is the dark horse in the event organized in cooperation with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and the city government of Cagayan de Oro.

Canaleta, however, is the wise-money bet among the players, including Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text and Alaska's Nic Belasco.

"Oh, man," gushed Alapag. "You'll see him [Canaleta] fly and you watch. And then he slams the ball right in. What a beauty."

Said Belasco: "No doubt, he'll (Canaleta) give them a run for their money."

The eliminations and finale of the dunk contest, along with the three-point shootout, skills challenge, shooting stars and trick-shot challenge, will serve as appetizers to the rookie-sophomore game later tonight.

Alapag, the reigning three-point king, will have his hands full against certified snipers Renren Ritualo of Air21, Dondon Hontiveros of San Miguel Beer and James Yap of Purefoods in the event also backed by Accel, Sunbolt fun drinks, Chowking, Mentos and Air21.

In the obstacle-skills contest, Topex Robinson of Red Bull will be the man to watch, while San Miguel Beer's Paolo Hubalde opens defense of his trick-shot title.

TOP PICK: Canaleta

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Project Reference Number 06-001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center through its Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites suppliers / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects.

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	CONTRACT DURATION
A. Supply of Security Services for Western Visayas Medical Center, Don Jose Monfort Memorial Hospital, Mental Health Unit and Drug Rehab	➢ Mandurriao, Iloilo City ➢ Pototan, Iloilo ➢ Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo	P 3,689,640.00	12 months from date of contract signing
B. Supply of Janitorial Services for Western Visayas Medical Center, Don Jose Monfort Memorial Hospital and Mental Health Unit	➢ Mandurriao, Iloilo City ➢ Pototan, Iloilo ➢ Barotac Nuevo Iloilo	P 3,240,000.00	
C Laundry Services for Western Visayas Medical Center	➢ Mandurriao, Iloilo City	P 780,000.00	

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	SCHEDULE		
	Security Services	Janitorial Services	Laundry Services
1. Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)		May 4, 2006	
2. Submission of Eligibility Documents		May 5, 2006	
3. Eligibility Check		May 8, 2006	
4. Issuance of Bid Documents		May 10-16, 2006	
5. Site Inspection		May 11-15, 2006	
6. Pre-Bid Conference		May 17, 2006	
7. Opening of Bids		May 30, 2006	
8. Bid Evaluation		June 1 to June 15, 2006	
9. Post-qualification		June 22, 2006	
10. Notice of Award		July 7, 2006	

The Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be held on the above stated dates at 10:00 o'clock AM in the Executive Conference Room, Western Visayas Medical Center, Iloilo City

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount to the DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center cashier.

PROJECT	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
Supply of Security Services Supply of Janitorial Services Supply of Laundry Services	

The DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses, incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The Western Visayas Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the Bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s

(Sgd.) GINA SOPHIA G. MONDEJAR
BAC - Chairman

(PDI – April 21 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

GILDA DUCADO-DE DIOS,
Petitioner,
-versus- **SSC Case No. 6-15719-04**
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, and MILA ESQUIBIL-DE DIOS,
Respondents.
x---x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO : MS. MILA ESQUIBIL-DE DIOS

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 22nd day of March 2006, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of 6 pages, was entered in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED**, the Commission finds, and so holds, petitioner Gilda Ducado De Dios the legal wife of Romeo P. De Dios and entitled as primary beneficiary to his death benefits.
>
> Accordingly, the SSS is hereby directed to give due course to the claim for SS death benefit and pay the petitioner the appropriate death pension benefit, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.
>
> **SO ORDERED.**

Makati City, Philippines, **April 5, 2006.**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - April 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 002006-04-0005

IMPLEMENTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR UNLEADED MOTOR GASOLINE (PNS/DOE QS 001:2005)

WHEREAS, Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8479 otherwise known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998", provides for the deregulation of the downstream oil industry to foster a truly competitive market which can better achieve the social policy objectives of fair prices, adequate and continuous supply of environmentally-clean and high quality petroleum products, *e.g.* gasoline, diesel, LPG and bunker;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of R.A. No. 8749, otherwise known as the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999", provides that the DOE together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other stakeholders shall set specifications for all types of fuel and fuel-related products and improve fuel composition. It shall also specify the allowable content of additives in all types of fuels and fuel-related products;

WHEREAS, Section 26 of R.A. No. 8749 also provides that every two (2) years thereafter or as the need arises, the specifications of unleaded gasoline and of automotive and industrial diesel fuels shall be reviewed and revised for further improvement in formulation and in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 2002-12-001 implemented the Clean Air Act Gasoline Specification for 2003 issued December 13, 2002;

WHEREAS, PNS/DOE QS 001:2005 was promulgated on December 5, 2005 to supersede PNS 1131:2002 (DOE:001:2002) as the latest revision of quality standard specification for Unleaded Gasoline;

WHEREAS, the promulgation of PNS/DOE QS 001:2005 in effect requires the issuance of corresponding circular to implement the same, and supersedes Memorandum Circular No. 2002-12-001;

WHEREAS, Department Circular No. 2001-09-2003 entitled "Octane Posting at the Pump" was previously issued requiring all dealers/operators of gasoline station to display the octane rating, in terms of Research Octane Number (RON) as part of the gasoline label at the pumps sold in their establishment through a "sticker" following the prescribed specifications to properly guide the consumer on the quality of gasoline they are buying, thereby relating it to the price they are paying;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following guidelines are hereby adopted to effectively implement the Philippine National Standard specification for unleaded motor gasoline;

1. Starting May 15, 2006, only unleaded motor gasoline complying with PNS/DOE QS 001:2005 shall be manufactured, imposed, sold, offered for sale, dispensed, or introduced into commerce in the Philippines;
2. All persons engaged in the importation of unleaded motor gasoline and/or gasoline blending components shall submit to the DOE, as part of the reportorial requirements under Section 7 (b) of DOE Memorandum Circular No. 98-03-004 Implementing R.A. No. 8479, a Certificate of Quality (COQ) showing all the properties listed in the Philippine National Standard for gasoline (PNS/DOE QS 001:2005) with the corresponding values resulting from the prescribed test methods, not later than fifteen (15) days after the arrival of the shipment;
3. All dealers/operators of gasoline stations are required to properly label the following:
    a. all regular gasoline dispensing pumps with the advisory "NOT RECOMMENDED FOR VEHICLES WITH FOUR (4) OR MORE WHEELS", noticeable enough to be readable by the end-users;
    b. all dispensing pumps for gasoline containing organo-metallic compound with the advisory "THIS CONTAINS ORGANO-METALLIC COMPOUND/ADDITIVE"; and
    c. all gasoline dispensing pumps with the prescribed octane sticker as provided under Department Circular No. 2001-09-003. The sticker should indicate the word "minimum" below the octane number;
4. The oil company/ies shall conduct regular monitoring of all activities being undertaken at their refineries, bulk plants, terminals, depots, tank trucks and gasoline stations/retail outlets nationwide to ensure that the quality of all gasoline being sold meets the latest gasoline specifications as well as in compliance with this Circular. The DOE shall, among others, conduct the random quality and quantity sampling and testing of gasoline secured from these facilities; and
5. Failure to comply with provisions of this Department Circular shall subject the violator to the corresponding sanctions imposed by appropriate laws, including R.A. 8479 and R.A. 8749, and DOE rules and regulations.

This Department Circular shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in any newspaper of general circulation, and shall remain in effect unless otherwise revoked or amended.

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, 25 April 2006.

RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
Secretary

(PDI–April 28, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-038	1 Lot Impact Assessment of LANDBANK Projects and System Development Life Cycle Documentation	P 4,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and Eligibility Documents on or before the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **May 10, 2006, 1:00 p.m. at General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza Building, 1598 M.H del Pilar cor Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those that are eligible will be entitled to procure the Bid Documents, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00,** and submit bids.

The BAC shall determine the eligibility of interested consultants in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) and other government rules and regulations. Other eligibility requirements are the following:

a. Must have at least five (5) years experience in conducting Post-Implementation Evaluation of System Project.
b. Must have at least three (3) completed and/or on-going contracts similar to the item for bid, for the last two (2) years at least equal to 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
c. Must have at least one (1) Post Implementation Evaluation and one (1) SDLC Documentation projects successfully implemented.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least 60% interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

LANDBANK shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedure. The weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be 75% and 25%, respectively. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bid Documents.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI–April 28 & May 5, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

Rehabilitation of DAR Municipal and Provincial Offices

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading the physical state of its field offices in regions 7 and 9 to provide a conducive working environment for its staff and have efficient delivery of service. The rehabilitation of two municipal offices (DAR Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental and DAR Godod, Zamboanga del Norte with an estimated budget of PhP 1,000,000.00 and PhP 550,000.00 respectively) and two provincial offices (DAR Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, and DAR Siquijor, Siquijor with a budget of PhP 2,280,000.00 and PhP 2,471,000.00) are found to be necessary.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible contractors who are accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board qualified for retro-fitting buildings between PhP1,000,000 to 3,000,000 or with corresponding record to bid for the rehabilitation of one or more of said offices.

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents: company profile, description/experience of similar assignments, 2005 BIR certification of registration and business permit to BIARSP TSCO. Please download the General Conditions (Terms of Reference) for the tender from our website www.biarsptsco.org under the category "opportunities". The deadline for the submission of bids is on June 6, 2006. For further queries you may contact us through any of the following:

E-mail:	tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post	BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg., Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street, 6200 Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax:	(035) 422-7736
Tel. #s:	(035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459
Contact Person:	Mayena Llosa, Administrative Officer

(PDI--April 28, 2006)

SPORTSWATCH

Kids test BRC track

YOUNG DRIVERS TEST THEIR SKILLS ON A different track as the 2006 Shell Helix-Cali Superkarting Series stages its second leg this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Juha Turalba and Joey Orduña are favored to take their second straight wins in their respective divisions. Turalba guns for another upset of last year's Cadet and Junior Karter of the Year John Alvarez in the ROK Junior class. He is also up against Paco Rodriguez, JeT Racing's Javi Benitez and Roby Benito. Orduña, meanwhile, seeks a repeat in the Mini ROK Class where he will pit skills against Vencer John Suba, Paolo Gonzales, Renz Pazcoguin and Franco Reyes.

Calapre bags title

MAASIN, LEYTE—MARYJOE CALAPRE whipped Kenny Carbonilla, 6-3, 6-1, over the weekend to top the unisex 10-under division of the 2006 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Maasin Tennis Club. Calapre shared the honors with Cris Arnol in the boys' 12-under competition; Mark Tugonon in the boys' 14-under; Alexis Doller in the boys' 16-under; and Jedree Tan in the boys' 18-under bracket. Arnol edged Romeo Borres, 7-5, 2-6, 10-5; Tugonon tripped Amiel Aya-ay, 6-2, 2-6, 10-4; Doller nipped June Montalbo, 6-3, 7-5; and Tan subdued Julius Pagsiat, 7-6, 7-6.

PBA shootout at SM

SM BICUTAN WILL HOST THE NEXT STOP OF the first Burlington-PBA summer shootout at various SM malls on Sunday. Activities lined up in the event starting at 2 p.m. are the shooting challenge, basketball obstacle relay, dribbling and passing skills and beat-the-buzzer shooting challenge. Five grand prize and 10 consolation prize winner will be known after each game. Cage clinics for the kids, to be conducted by former PBA star Ed Cordero, will also be held.

SJC 9-Cock Int'l Derby

THE FIRST-EVER SJC 9-COCK INTERNATIONAL Derby, an explosive showdown among more than 100 local and international derby champions, will be staged at the San Juan Coliseum on June 5, 7 and 9. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The SJC management has devised a unique format for this derby: all the participants will be designated as hosts and will receive 50 percent of derby proceeds. Cockers and breeders from the United States, Canada, Japan and Malaysia have signified their intention to join.

5 entries lead Salpukan

FIVE PARTICIPANTS TOOK THE EARLY LEAD IN Makati Coliseum's blockbuster cockfest, the Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby which opened Wednesday night. With perfect scores of three wins each are the entries of Rolly Bautista (Macking), Allan Siaco (ERJ 3 Plus 3), Noriaki Morita of Japan (JGBA Morita), Eric Carreon (DMC June 1 Las Piñas) and Boy Javier (Daboy II). The second day of action resumes tomorrow with more than 90 fights on tap. Those competing tomorrow must submit their entries today.

Pasay 5-cocker today

EIGHTY-TWO QUALITY FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP the special 5-cock derby promotion of businessman Benjie Lim today at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. The first fight in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is set at 5 p.m. Lim, a regular member of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) and Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) said the cash prize at stake is P400,000. Meanwhile, pit manager Eric dela Rosa said the Labanan 5-cock derby will be held on May 5.

Roach here to convince Pacquiao to train in US

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CRACK AMERICAN TRAINER FREDDIE ROACH breezed into town yesterday to take part in today's press conference for the July 2 bout between Manny Pacquiao and Mexico's Oscar Larios, as well as to try to convince the Filipino ring idol to reconsider his decision to skip a planned US training for the fight.

ROACH: Hopeful

Roach, accompanied by US lawyer Nick Khan, one of Pacquiao's managers, arrived at 5 a.m. yesterday and immediately proceeded to the Discovery Suites at the Ortigas Center in Pasig, where Larios' group is also billeted.

Larios, together with trainer Edison Reynoso and agent Rafael Mendoza, planed in Wednesday to help promote the fight.

Roach, the 2004 Trainer of the Year, had earlier expressed optimism that Pacquiao would join him on his trip back to Los Angeles, California, to start training for Larios.

"I'll do anything to convince him to reconsider his earlier decision to skip US training," said Roach. "His fight against Larios is a tough one and he needs to be 100 percent conditioned."

Roach and Pacquiao had agreed to start preparations at the trainer's Wild Card gym for three weeks, before heading back to Manila and set up a training camp in Baguio City. Apparently, Pacquiao had a change of heart, and told reporters that he was no longer keen on training in the US.

Jungolf big guns earn San Diego JW tickets

REIGNING WORLD CHAMPION WOLEN SUPERAL took his expected slot, and so did Debbie de Villa, Dottie Ardina and Miguel Tabuena as the big names rose to the occasion at the close yesterday of the Callaway Junior World golf qualifying tournament at the Canlubang north course.

Superal bucked a last-ditch rally by Marcel Puyat with a 79 and still won the Class B crown by four. He led the 12 boys and girls who earned free tickets to Los Angeles courtesy of Philippine Airlines for ruling their repesctive classes.

De Villa redeemed herself from a shock loss in last month's DHL Amateur Open by ruling girls' Class A by 13 after a 78, while Ardina also saved her best for last to foil the bid of Maan Legaspi, scoring 73-452 to win girls Class C by seven.

And Tabuena claimed a morale-boosting come-from-behind victory with an impressive 74-454 in the tourney also backed by Samsung, PAL and Callaway/Planet Sports.

In boys' Class A, it was Mico Yee (72-432) outsteadied the much-improved John Kier Abdon (72-435) for the crown.

Cyna Marie Rodriguez also rallied to beat Mia Piccio by two for the girls' Class B plum.

Joining the girls champions list were Princess Superal in Class D, Rachita Vasandani in Class E and Chloe Reyes in Class F.

JR Gonzales, the former world junior 7-8 years champ, was the runaway boys' Class D winner; Justin Dy routed the field in boys' Class E and Shailesh Vasandani made it a family double by turning back Ryan Monsalve in boys' Class F.

Fiery Agra gains q'finals in style

TOP SEED JESSICA AGRA WHITEWASHED Nadine Castillon, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to advance to the girls' 18-under quarterfinals of the 2006 Toby's Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Metro Club courts in Makati.

Agra next faces Janine Salgado, who survived Alyssa Mendoza, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In other matches, Ivy de Castro blanked Kyrie Macias, 6-0, 6-0; Christine Patrimonio downed Gelene Dimaculangan, 6-0, 6-0; Angelica Macatangay clobbered Alessandra Dizon, 6-0, 6-2; Zhane Quitara demolished Ysabela Escueta, 6-1, 6-0; and Trudy Amoranto bested Danielle Hallare, 6-1, 6-3.

In the girls' 14-under play, No. 1 Regina Santiago outplayed Mary Rivero, 6-4, 6-3, and Zhane Quitara waylaid Aileen Enilo, 6-0, 6-0, to join Therese Opulencia, Martina Guba, Chynna Mamawal, Sarah Lim and Irina Quinatadcan in the next round.

Booking quarterfinal berths in the girls' 12-under were Shanine Olivarez, Marinel Ferry, Akiko de Guzman, Macy Gonzales, Joana Pena, Maria Raisa Opulencia, Crizzabelle Paulino and Jasmine Tan Ho.

JAPAN'S -Chihiro Kawahara, tormentor of Filipino Rubilen Amit Wednesday, gains Final 8. ROGER MARGALLO

Rañola stays alive, zaps Japanese ace

By Musong R. Castillo

IRIS RAÑOLA KEPT THE PHILIPPINE RED-WHITE-AND-blue flying in the rich Enerva Ladies 9-Ball Championship yesterday, pulling off a 9-4 win over Khazuko Shimizu in the losers' bracket despite coming out dry in all her breaks.

The chubby, 4-foot-11 Zamboanga native who gave up Accounting studies three years ago to concentrate on the sport actually won two matches in the second day to make up somewhat for the tumble that RP No. 1 Rubilen Amit took at the hands of another Japanese entry earlier.

Rañola broke out of the gates hard in both matches, downing Japan's Sakiko Namiki in style, 9-0, early in the afternoon before overcoming Shimizi.

Her second victory earned Rañola a spot in the Final Eight of the losers' bracket. At presstime, she was battling Japan's Mazami Nouchi, who was forced into the lower side of the draw following a 6-9 loss to Chun Lin-yuan of Taiwan in the quarterfinals of the winners' bracket.

"I don't care if I play a Japanese all tournament long," Rañola, whose father Emilio is battling stage-four throat cancer back home, said. "There are no bum Japanese players, make no mistake about it. But I am more scared of the Taiwanese."

While Rañola felt right at home against Japanese foes, the same could not be said of Amit, who scratched two crucial shots in the 13th and 14th racks to head to the door after a 7-9 loss to Akimi Kajitani, the Japanese No. 1.

Amit, who contributed two gold medals in the Philippines' overpowering overall conquest in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last year, appeared to have swung the momentum in her favor against Kajitani before two bad shots on the No. 4 ball doomed her chances.

The Taiwanese have stamped their class so far, with three players making the semifinals of the winners' bracket, led by Fang Fan-jui, a 9-5 winner over Japan's Chihiro Kawahara, Amit's conqueror, in the quarterfinals.

Chun Lin-yuan sealed a clash with the 26-year-old Fang after that 9-4 victory over Nouchi.

The only player who managed to crash into the Taiwanese party was two-time defending World Pool champion Kim Go-young of South Korea, who took out Chinese-Taipei No. 1 Jennifer Chen, 9-3.

Bayron stretches Samsung Tour golf lead

BAYRON: 5 birdies

BAGUIO—JAY BAYRON CAME THROUGH with a second 2-under-par 59 in three days and increased his lead to three strokes over Marvin Dumandan heading into the final round of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the Baguio Country Club course here yesterday.

Atoning for a scrambling 64 overnight, the Canlubang bet buckled down to work early with four birdies against a bogey in the front nine.

Bayron went four-under after rolling in another birdie putt on No. 11 only to find his run halted by back-to-back bogeys from No. 16 to duplicate his first round score of 59.

Dumandan, winner of the DHL-WWWExpress Open at Bayron's turf in Canlubang last month, needed a birdie No. 13 to stay even-par in a round marred by a double-bogey on No. 5. He remained in second with a 185 total.

Ferdinand Aunzo, tied with Dumandan and two others overnight for second place, shot a third straight 1-over 62 to slip to third place with 186, a stroke in front of Paul Echavez (63).

Former national amateur champion Jun Bernis, who had a 58 in the second round, faltered to a 62 to be at 188, in a tie with Singapore Open champion Michael Bibat and Joseph Labajo, who had 63 and 62, respectively.

Meanwhile, Tootsie de Jesus carded a 68 to seize a two-shot lead over Ric Madayag and Cris Palanca, who both shot 70s, in the 36-hole Class A competition, while Oscar Arenas came up with a 69 to build a four-stroke lead over Raul Zamora (73) in Class B.

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No minors allowed. Open to persons 18 years old and above only. Organizer reserves the right to refuse entry to those without IDs as proof of age.

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Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

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Nash tipped to cop 2nd straight MVP award

NASH: Incredible honor

PHOENIX—PHOENIX SUNS PLAYmaker Steve Nash will be named the NBA's most valuable player for the second year in a row, The Arizona Republic reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper cited a league source familiar with the voting, but said the official announcement may not come for two weeks.

The NBA did not comment on the report, posted on the Republic's website on Wednesday. Nash would become the 10th player to win the award in consecutive seasons.

"Anytime you sit back and think about just winning it once, it's mind-boggling—the company and what it means in the history of the game," Nash said on Wednesday. "To win it twice obviously just compounds that. It's just an incredible honor."

Nash, a 32-year-old Canadian, won his first MVP award last season, when he directed the Suns to a NBA-best 62 victories.

The East Valley Tribune of Mesa reported on Monday that a survey of 75 of the 127 writers and broadcasters who vote for MVP showed Nash with a sizable lead over runner-up LeBron James in the voting.

This season, Nash had career highs in scoring (18.8 points), rebounding (4.2), field goal percentage (.512) and free throw percentage (a league-leading .921). He led the league in assists at 10.5 per game and finished sixth in 3-point percentage at 43.9. *AP*

Yao may play in world tilt

SHANGHAI, CHINA—HOUSTON ROCKETS center Yao Ming is recovering well from foot surgery and could still make an appearance at this summer's world championships, his agent has said.

Yao will start a physical rehabilitation program soon and plans to be back on the court by late June, Zhang Mingji was quoted as saying by the website of China Radio International.

Yao underwent surgery April 14 in Houston to repair the fifth metatarsal bone in his left foot, which was broken during a game against Utah. Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson said Yao's injury could take 4-6 months to heal.

"I believe there is still a possibility for Yao to participate in the world championships," Zhang was quoted as saying in the report posted Wednesday.

Separately, Yao was quoted as saying in an interview with Shanghai's Oriental Morning Post on Thursday that former Miami Heat center Wang Zhizhi should take his place if he was unable to play at the worlds. *AP*

Ramirez, Go settle dispute

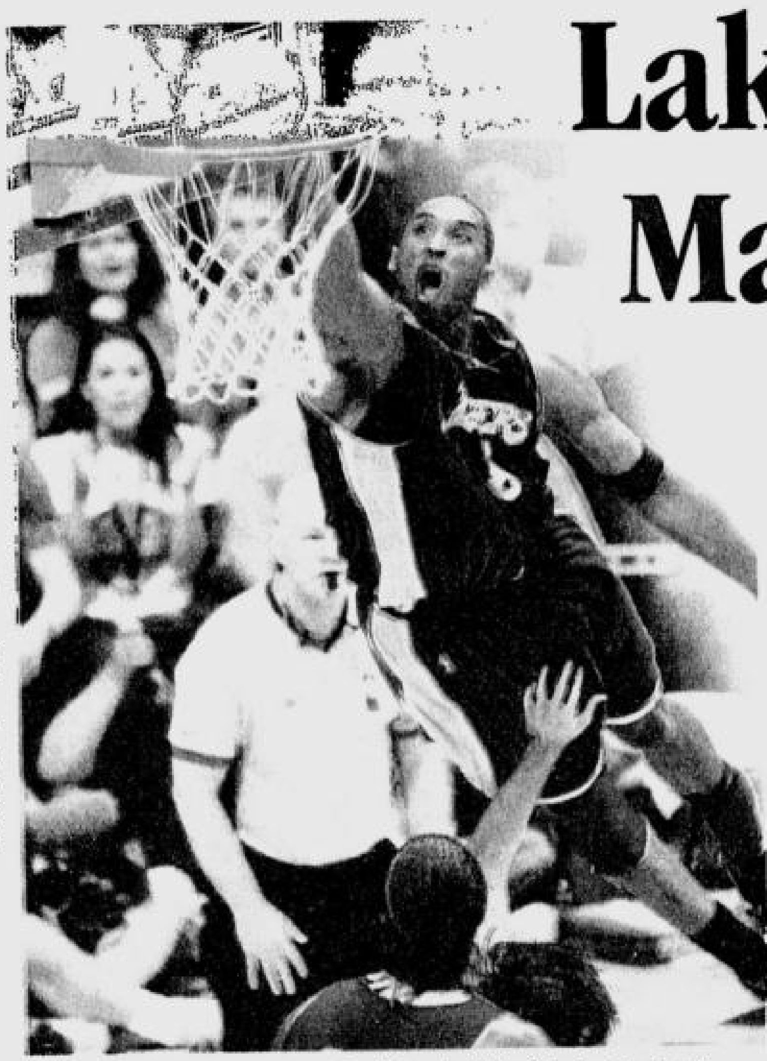
PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION CHAIR William "Butch" Ramirez and athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday smoked the peace pipe a day after engaging in a word war over the government agency's financial assistance to national sports associations (NSAs).

Sources said Ramirez met with Go at the PSC chair's office yesterday morning and agreed to settle their differences. The meeting was brokered by a common friend.

Ramirez and Go, the source said, agreed to form a committee that would facilitate the needs of NSAs with unliquidated advances, like Go's Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

Patafa still has P900,000 in unliquidated cash advances from the PSC. This has forced the PSC board to turn down Patafa's request for P1.4 million to help fund athletics' National Open championships. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Lakers shade Suns; Mavs, Pistons lead



KOBE Bryant dunks over Steve Nash (partly hidden) during the fourth quarter of the Lakers' first-round playoff game against the Suns. AP

PHOENIX—KOBE BRYANT HAD 29 POINTS and 10 rebounds, Lamar Odom scored 21 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers held off a late rally to beat the Phoenix Suns 99-93 Wednesday and square the NBA first-round playoff series 1-1.

Game 3 is Friday night in Los Angeles.

Steve Nash had 29 points and Raja Bell 23 for the Suns, who shot 43 percent—34 percent in the first half.

Los Angeles led by as many as 17 points late in the second quarter and early in the third after Phoenix went nearly 7 1/2 minutes without a point.

Pistons 109, Bucks 98

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Tayshaun Prince scored 22 points and Chauncey Billups had 20 to lead Detroit over Milwaukee and take a 2-0 lead in their series.

The two-time defending Eastern Conference champion Pistons had lost three straight Game 2s and four of their last five, dating to the 2004 NBA Finals. Before that stretch, Detroit lost to Milwaukee two years ago in the second game of their first-round series en route to the title.

Bucks star Michael Redd bounced back from an 11-point game with 29, but didn't get much help in the first half as Milwaukee's other starters each scored six or fewer points before halftime.

Game 3 is on Saturday in Milwaukee.

Richard Hamilton, who left Game 1 with a sprained left ankle, had 18 points and eight assists in 33 minutes.

Mavericks 94, Grizzlies 79

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points and Dallas took a 2-0 lead in its first-round series against Memphis, which has never won a postseason game.

The Grizzlies went 16 straight possessions without a point and 10:47 between baskets over the middle two quarters, taking them out of what had been a close game.

Memphis dropped to 0-10 in its postseason history; that's four more losses than any NBA team has ever had before its first victory. The Grizzlies will head home for Game 3 on Saturday halfway to being swept for the third straight year.

Pau Gasol scored 10 points in the first quarter, but finished with 16. Bobby Jackson scored 12 and Eddie Jones scored 11. *AP*

Solar Sports will air the Miami-Chicago tussle at 8 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m.

Nadal nears Borg's string of wins

NADAL: 43 straight victories REUTERS

BARCELONA—RAFAEL NADAL STARTed his defense of the Barcelona Open in style on Wednesday with a confident 6-4 6-2 win over fellow-Spaniard Feliciano Lopez.

The French Open champion extended his winning streak on clay to 43 matches, three behind second-placed Bjorn Borg in the Open Era list, to set up a third-round match with Spanish qualifier Ivan Navarro-Pastor.

Nadal said he had been wary of a letdown after his victory over world number one Roger Federer in the final of the Monte Carlo Masters Series event on Sunday.

Second seed Nikolay Davydenko's title hopes were blown away in a 6-7 7-5 6-4 defeat to Croat Ivo Karlovic.

Karlovic hammered 19 aces to set up a third-round clash with Russian Evgeny Korolev, who beat Spaniard Fernando Vicente 6-3 6-0.

Former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero outslugged fellow Spaniard Alberto Martin 6-4 7-6 to reach the last 16.

Ferrero will next meet another former French Open champion from Spain, Albert Costa, who posted a 6-3 7-5 win over eighth seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia.

Sixth seed Tommy Robredo, champion in Barcelona in 2004, beat Italian Potito Starace 6-4 6-0 while Tomas Berdych lost 7-6 6-3 to Spaniard Albert Portas. *Reuters*

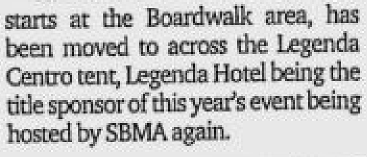
Triathlon changes up

ORGANIZERS OF THE 12TH LEGenda Subic Bay International Triathlon set on May 7 inside the Subic Freeport have introduced changes in this year's race course, particularly in the swim portion of the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run Olympic distance race.

According to Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap) president Tom Carrasco Jr., the swim leg will be patterned after the same swim portion course of the triathlon event in the forthcoming Asian games in Doha, Qatar, where the sport will make its debut.

The bike course, featuring both flat and hilly terrain, remains basically the same.

The finish line of the race, which starts at the Boardwalk area, has been moved to across the Legenda Centro tent, Legenda Hotel being the title sponsor of this year's event being hosted by SBMA again.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—River Bandit (2), Ikaw Lamang (1), Ocean Dignity (4)
Race 2—(Tri)—From This Moment (4), Rivendel (1), Baling Ganda (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Reign Of Roses (5), Ingay Ingay (4), St. Jek Jek (3), Road Runner (1)
race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Gun Powder (5), Tini Bambini (2), Uncle (6), Western Legend (4)
Race 5—(Tri)—Sky Bound (4), Hezabellagio (2), Jokes Only (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Stallone (7), Zaniga (1), Angic Gray (2), Cara Dura (8), U Are My Sunshine (3)
Race 7—(Tri)—Beat D'Heat (5), American Idol (4), Money Maker (3)
Race 8—(Tri)—Dow Jones (3), Bunker Buster (5), Luck Of The Irish (2)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Expiditer (7), Scarlet Velvet (8), Modern Classic (2), Power Dance (5), Ole! Ole! Ole! (10), Strong Colony (3)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2006 intends to apply the sum of Php246,598,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES (the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES. The contract duration for the Project is One (1) year.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting April 21, 2006 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Pesos: Two Thousand Five Hundred (Php2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 10, 2006, 3:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than 2:00 P.M. on May 24, 2006. The bids including the eligibility requirements shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-April 21 & 28, 2006)

Racing industry boosts tax campaign

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FEATURING THE COUNTRY'S VERY BEST horses, the well-manicured San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, will be staging several classic races this summer in line with its mission to develop the racing industry.

But more than the blue-ribbon races, these events will again be a fitting occasion to generate the badly-needed revenues for the government and provide employment for our countrymen. If memory serves, the racing industry contributed more than P1.2 billion in taxes last year. As a result, Jaime Dilag, chair of the Philippine Racing Commission, cited the two racing clubs (San Lazaro and Santa Ana Park), the horse owners—breeders, jockeys, trainers, stakes race sponsors and the racing public for keeping the "Sport of Kings" alive and well.

On Sunday, San Lazaro will host the Marho Founders' Cup where arch rivals Real Spicy and Speed Advantage could be pitted again.

Marho (Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners) was founded on March 22, 1974 by individuals of varied business interests but with a common passion for horse racing. Its founders included Ambassador Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, former Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, Caloocan Mayor Macario Asistio Sr., Antonio Araneta, Asterio Favis, Elias Coscoluela, Angel Castaño, Eric Moreno, Emilio Espinosa, Jose Revilla, Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., Constante Rubio, Conrado Trinidad and Samuel Sharuff.

Billiards "godfather" Aristeo "Putch" Puyat was its longest-serving president, heading the association for a total of 15 years (seven straight from 1986 to 1992 and eight from 1996 to 2005). Mandaluyong Rep. Benhur Abalos, another prominent horse owner, is now the president of Marho.

Real Spicy and Speed Advantage will be strutting their savvy again on May 14, also at San Lazaro, in this year's staging of the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup, considered by many as the country's unofficial championship race for island-born horses. Owned by sportsman Hermie Esguerra, Real Spicy is a 4-year-old chestnut colt by Real Quiet, a two-leg winner of the prestigious US Triple Crown, out of Spicy Tale. While Speed Advantage is a 4-year-old bay colt by Royal Premier out of Trudy Capote (USA). Owned by the Bobby Yutadco Stable, Speed Advantage is bred by real estate executive Toti Cariño.

Another Esguerra entry, Don Exequiel, will also be seen in action on May 14 at San Lazaro for the first leg of the Philippine Triple Crown, one of the richest, most colorful and widely followed racing events in the country today.

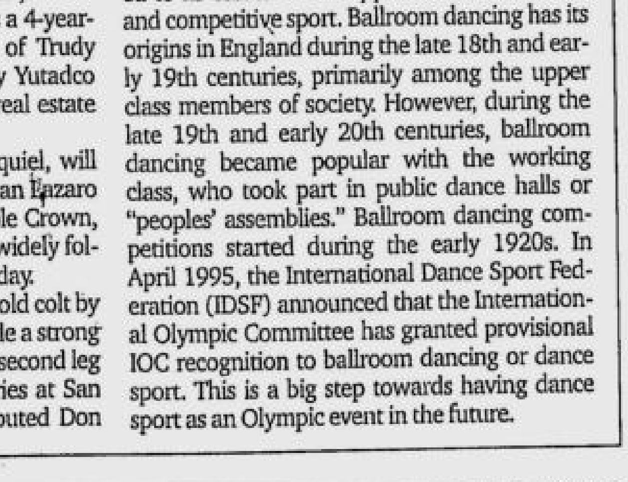
Don Exequiel, a handsome 3-year-old colt by Bench Mark out of Belle Epoque, made a strong presence felt when he easily won the second leg of the Road to the Triple Crown series at San Lazaro last April 16. Esguerra attributed Don Exequiel's smashing victory to teamwork, citing in particular the brilliant job done by trainer Jojo Panlilio and jockey Ronald Baldonido.

"Considering that Don Exequiel came off a long layoff, the win was truly impressive," said the proud owner, who named his Triple Crown bet after his late father.

* * *

HERE AND THERE: The popular Milo-BEST basketball clinic goes to San Pablo City on May 22-27 at the LSPC Trade School. For details, call BJ Cuello at (049) 800-3015, (049) 246-5377 or (0921) 571-4355… Overzealous basketball fans, particularly PBA followers, should be told by tournament organizers not to make discriminatory, personal and insulting chants during a game… The referees in this year's World Cup of football in Germany will be earning $40,000 each for officiating at the series… Ballroom dancing has a unique history that has contributed to its current mass appeal as a recreational and competitive sport. Ballroom dancing has its origins in England during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, primarily among the upper class members of society. However, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, ballroom dancing became popular with the working class, who took part in public dance halls or "peoples' assemblies." Ballroom dancing competitions started during the early 1920s. In April 1995, the International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF) announced that the International Olympic Committee has granted provisional IOC recognition to ballroom dancing or dance sport. This is a big step towards having dance sport as an Olympic event in the future.

San Juan tops clay shootfest



CHAMP Rene San Juan at the victory stand with (from left) Luis Lee, Andrew Poblete and Sherwin Topacio.

HILL TOP TAYTAY, RIZAL—RENE SAN Juan of Bulacan bested 63 other shooters to claim the individual crown in the recent Goma Cup Man vs Man sporting clays competition held at the Team GomaSport range here.

Sherwin Topacio finished second while Luis Lee and Andrew Poblete shared third spot.

The E-Team composed of Manny Cabili, Carlo Garcia, Miguel Fabie, Sherwin Topacio and Richard Gomez won the 50 targets Rudy Project team event.

Gabby Tong won a Mister Donut's franchise during the awarding ceremony. Norkis Yamaha also raffled off a motorcycle.

The Goma Cup was sponsored by Mister Donut, Solar Sports, 105.1 CrossOver, Belo Medical Group, Lincoln Throwing Machines, RIO Ammunitions, EDSA Shangri-la, C2 Ice Tea, MAQ Lighting and the municipality of Taytay.

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP 'Idol' finds 1st host in Ryan Agoncillo

and he's set not to be a Seacrest clone

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

APART FROM JUDGE RYAN Cayabyab, there's another Ryan on "Philippine Idol."

"Call me Ryan Seacreature," joked Ryan Agoncillo, alluding to "American Idol" host and namesake Ryan Seacrest.

Evidently, humor clinched the deal for the TV star who won the first of two slots as hosts of "Philippine Idol," which premieres on ABC 5 in July.

"Or Ryan Secret," jested Agoncillo, referring to the shroud of secrecy that enveloped his latest career triumph. After all, it was no mean feat, besting dozens of hopefuls who auditioned for the coveted spots.

Agoncillo was the first name to be confirmed; the identities of the remaining two judges and the other host are still being kept under wraps by ABC 5 producers.

In fact, Agoncillo wasn't allowed to divulge the good news to anyone. Not even to his girlfriend, actress Judy Ann Santos?

"I haven't told her yet," he quipped.

He said she'd surely be pleased with it because, "it's a job… and an exciting one at that."

But INQUIRER Entertainment knew about it; Agoncillo even gamely recounted the audition process.

"I was very nervous," he recalled. "I haven't auditioned for anything in a long time. I went on a dinner break (from the taping of the ABS-CBN soap opera) 'Bituing Walang Ningning' and I rushed to the ABC 5 studio in Novaliches. I had to learn my lines as I walked to the studio."

Fortunately, the audition went smoothly… and swiftly. "It was over in three minutes," Ryan recalled. He was asked to introduce the show and "console a female contestant that had just been bashed by a Simon Cowell-type judge because of her lousy fashion sense."

Agoncillo surmised that his "experience as TV host" gave him the edge over the other wannabes.

Spontaneity

"I've been doing this for a living for seven years now," he explained.

"Spontaneity," he believed, was also a factor.

"I'm comfortable with ad-libbing," he pointed out. "It's easier for me because I get to dictate the tempo. I'm not constrained by a TelePrompter, idiot board or script. I've reached a point in my hosting where I now know when and when not to bend and break rules and put them together in one breath."

According to Agoncillo, producers encourage hosts and judges to speak Filipino, English or Taglish. "Whatever we're comfortable with."

Agoncillo, who won a KBP Golden Dove Award for Best Talk and Magazine Show host in 2005 for "Y Speak," isn't aiming to be a Seacrest clone.

"The producers were not looking for another Ryan Seacrest," he said. "For the most part, they want his vibe, but they don't want a carbon copy."

If there's one Seacrest trait he would like to emulate, it's the American host's ability to elicit candid remarks from the contestants.

"Seacrest can really make the contestants open up," Agoncillo opined. "I also want to have a say in my spiels, in defending contestants when judges get too rough or reining in the contestants when they get too abrasive."

That, in a nutshell, is his job as host.

"More than the jacket, I am just the thread that holds the show together," he affirmed. The jacket or the real stars of the show are the contestants.

"My responsibility as host is to let the contestants shine. I should know when to leave them alone and when to pump them up."

Agoncillo, who follows "AI" (he's rooting for rocker Chris Daughtry), said that "the local auditions in Manila, Cebu and Davao would definitely be fun."

He's all "psyched up" and confident that "Philippine Idol" will succeed because "its concept is something we are all familiar with. It will be very interesting to import something foreign and reinvent it into something genuinely Pinoy. It's like being served the first hamburger all over again."

Or the first *adobo*?

Agoncillo himself is now caught up in the "Idol" frenzy. "I am looking forward to seeing the Filipino Idol. I don't want to see the next Michael Jackson or 'N' Sync. I want to hear the future of Pinoy sound."

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Chat Silayan: Remembering a real pro

By Marinel R. Cruz and Sheena Jade Barrion

I DID EVERYTHING I COULD for her, to the point of quarreling with her doctors. I kept thinking, 'I only had one shot at this; No take two.' I wanted to make sure that we were doing the right thing."

This was what Mike Bailon, husband of the late Ma. Rosario "Chat" Silayan, recounted to INQUIRER Entertainment about the painful decisions the family had to make as they struggled with the disease that eventually lead to the death of the actress-beauty queen.

Ma. Rosario Silayan, 1980 Miss Universe third runner-up, passed away after a two-year bout with colon cancer on Sunday night at the St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City. She was 46.

Chat's cancer was diagnosed in 2004. Mike said his wife had already been in pain—mostly in her lower back—for three weeks at the time of her death.

"She was so prepared for this. We were really hoping that God would grant us a miracle. But He had another agenda," Mike said on Tuesday at the actress' wake held at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. "I'm sure His purpose is for the good of everyone. We don't see it clearly now, but one day I know we'll understand."

THEY all came to celebrate Chat's life. From top: Husband Mike Bailon, co-host Eddie Ilarde, brother Relly Silayan, and colleagues Connie Reyes, Maribeth Bichara and Raquel Villavicencio PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Chat's friend, scriptwriter-actress Raquel Villavicencio, said only a few friends knew about her condition. "She didn't want other people to know," said Raquel.

But Mike said his wife had planned to "come out" with her illness this month on her weekly show "700 Club." "She had wanted to share her experience with others. But we first had to prepare her emotionally," said Mike.

Eddie Ilarde, Chat's co-host in the '80s top-rating noontime show "Student Canteen," remembers her as a smart, hardworking and dedicated professional.

"I'd like to think that Chat was our discovery—(cohost) Bobby Ledesma and I," he said. "Chat came in fresh from her stint in the Miss Universe contest. She was always willing to learn."

National Artist for Film Eddie Romero described Chat as a "good and disciplined" actress. The director had worked with Chat in the movie "Sumakalawa." "I even got to work with her late father Vic," Romero added. "She learned a lot step by step and she became very good."

Director Rory Quintos had worked with Chat in the ABS-CBN soap series "Esperanza" in 1997 and "Ipaglaban Mo: The Movie (Part 2)" in 1999. She said she found Chat, who is also a registered nutritionist-dietician, to be very professional.

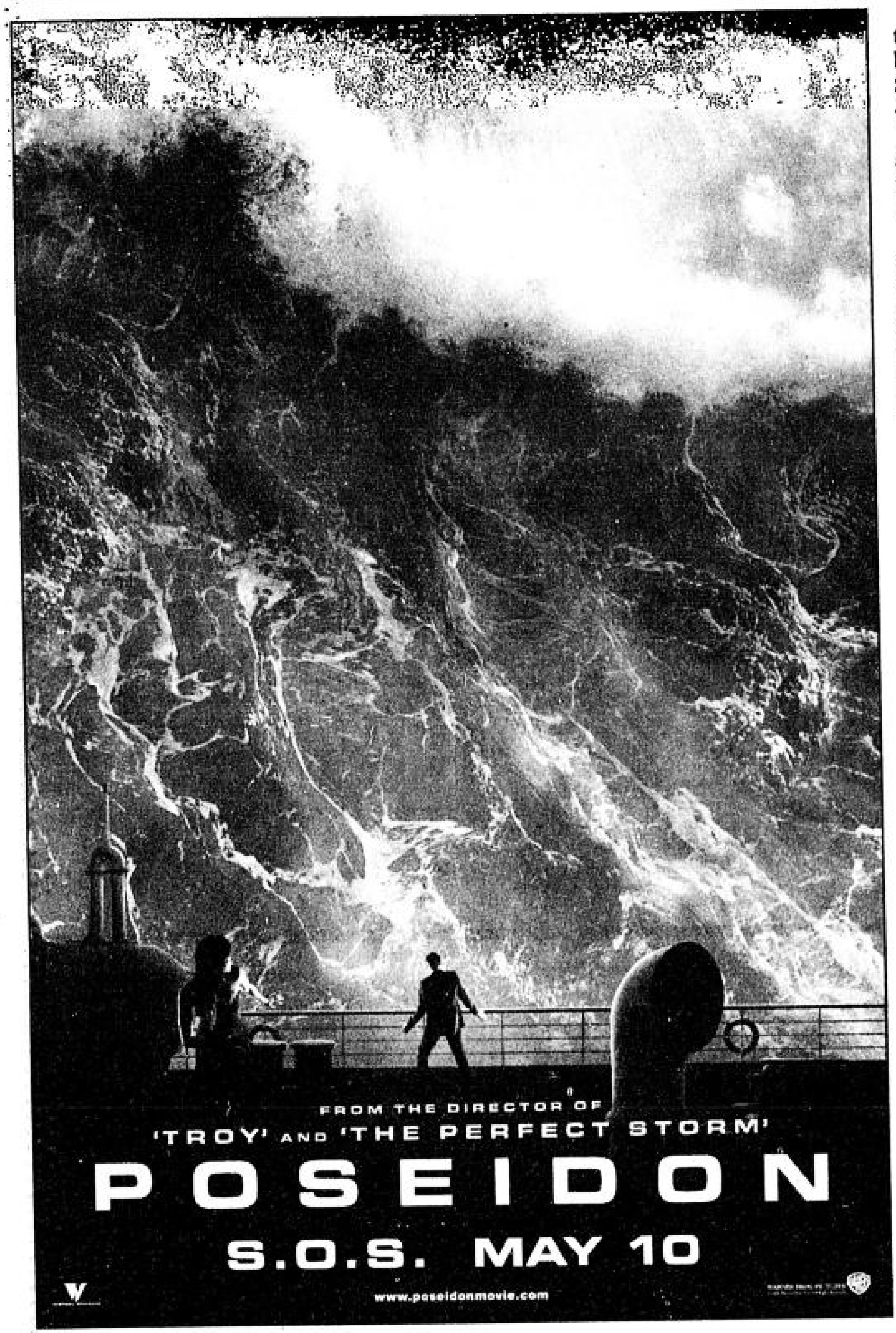
"She was friends with everybody. She went out of her way to reach out to everyone on the set," the director said. "The news that she had cancer came as a shock. She lead a very healthy lifestyle."

"You will never be ready for this kind of experience," said choreographer Maribeth Bichara. "You don't know what to eat or what to do anymore. *Kaya ako*, I just enjoy life and continue loving the people I know."

According to former video jock Donita Rose, Chat passed away two hours after she visited the actress at St. Luke's intensive care unit. "I was there at around 5 p.m. She was asleep so I just prayed for her," Donita shared. "I told God, 'I know that if You want her healed, You can make it happen. But if it's Your will for her to go, just please take away the pain and let her go in peace."

Chat's long-time friend Connie Reyes said she was supposed to have a date with the ac-

CHAT/ A2-5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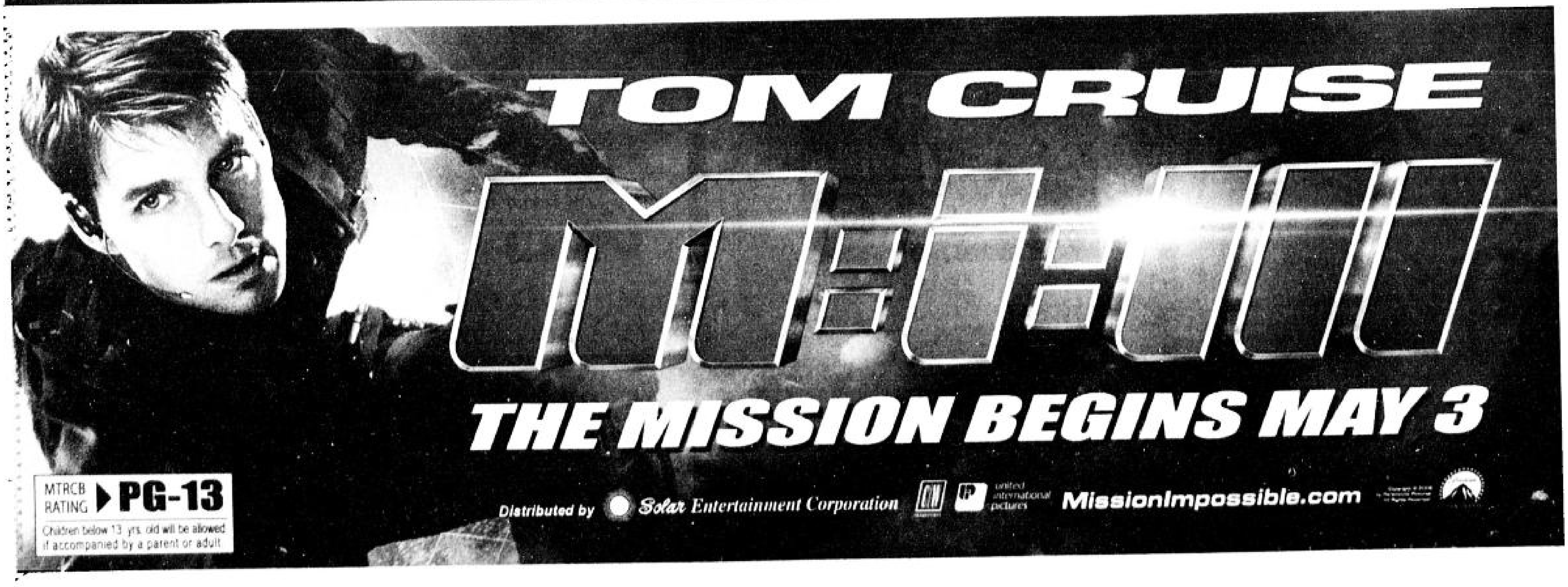
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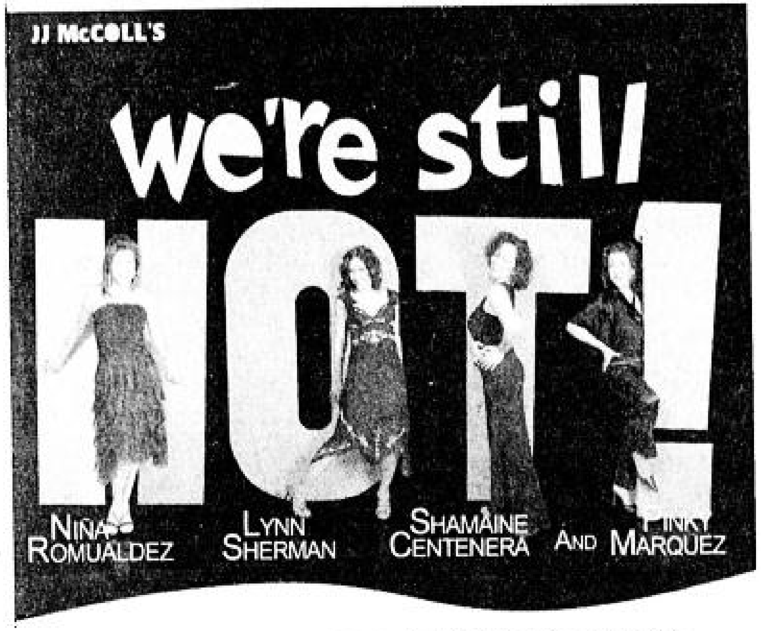

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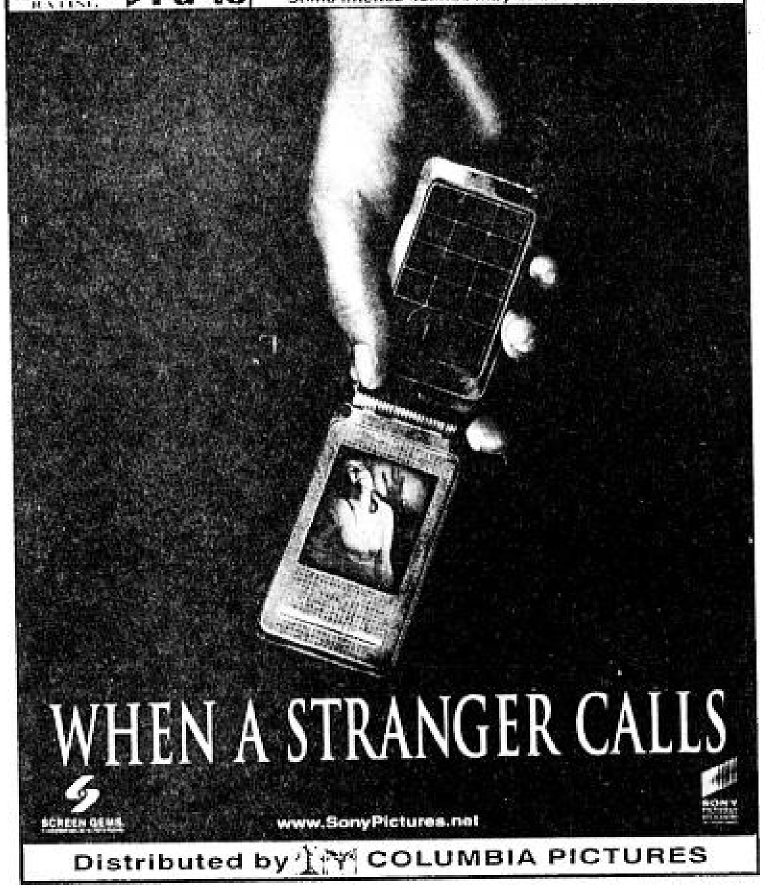

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SILENT HILL **R13** 11:50,2:30,5:10, 7:50,10:20	**SLITHER** **R18** 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	**THE SENTINEL** **PG13** 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30

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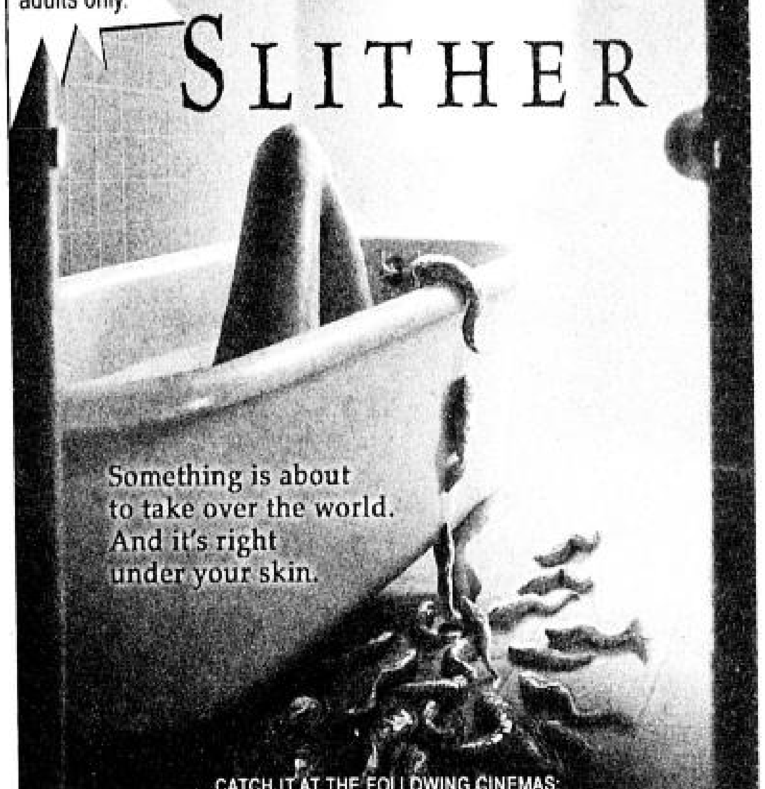
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	2	SENTINEL	
	3	SLITHER	
	4	SILENT HILL	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	SLITHER	
	2	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	
	3 THX	SENTINEL	1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	PAMAHIIN	
	5	EIGHT BELOW	
	6	THE WILD	
	7	SILENT HILL	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	
	2	SENTINEL	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE WILD	1:10, 3:05, 5:00, 6:55, 8:50, 10:46 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	SENTINEL	2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	TRISTAN & ISOLDE	1:26, 3:45, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	SLITHER	1:35, 3:25, 5:15, 7:05, 8:55, 10:46 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	SENTINEL	
	2	SLITHER	
	3	THE WILD	
	4	SILENT HILL	
	5	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	SENTINEL	
	2	SLITHER	
	3	THE WILD	
	4	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1	SENTINEL	
	2	SLITHER	
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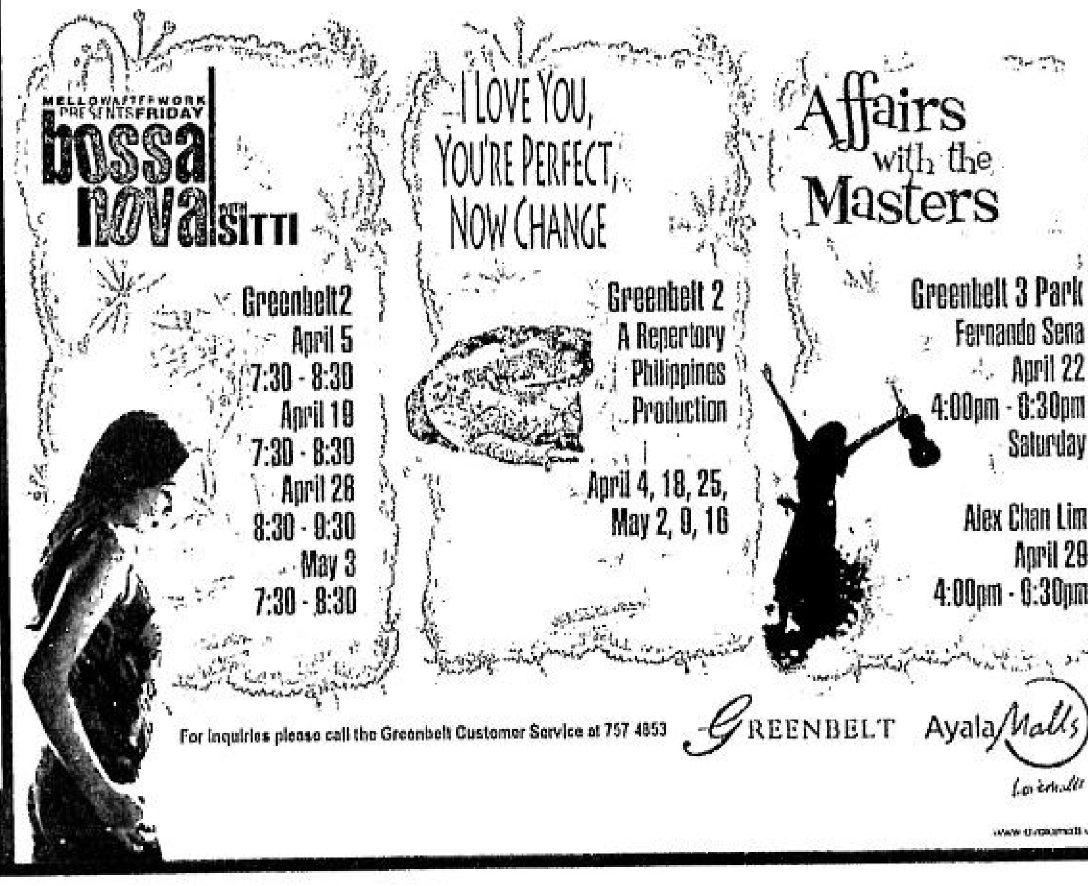
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THE PODIUM
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11:30 FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10
04:25 / 06:40 / 08:30LFS
09:00 LMF / 10:50 END
THE WILD
12:15 FS / 12:40 MF / 02:40
04:40 / 06:40 / 8:10LFS
08:40 LMF / 10:05 END

SM MEGACINEMA
SENTINEL
10:15FS / 10:45 MF / 01:00
03:15 / 05:30 / 07:45
09:35LFS / 10:00 LMF
11:50 END
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
RESERVED
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JUST FRIENDS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
MOMENTS OF LOVE
TRISTAN & ISOLDE

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THE WILD
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SILENT HILL
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PAMAHIIN
THE WILD
SENTINEL
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

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THE WILD
ICE AGE 2
FINAL DESTINATION 3
SUBMERGED
VENOM

SM CITY STA. MESA
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
SENTINEL
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SUBMERGED
D LUCKY ONES
ICE AGE 2

SM CITY BICUTAN
SENTINEL
THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
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THE WILD
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MOMENTS OF LOVE
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SILENT HILL

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WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
Jill Johnson, a young high school student who worked part-time as a babysitter, thought it's just going to be a quiet evening. Not until she answers a call from a mysterious person, who keeps on asking her, "Have you checked the children?" When the children are suddenly nowhere to be found, Jill gets more nervous when she realizes that the caller is also in the same house.
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SENTINEL
D LUCKY ONES
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
THE WILD

SM CITY MAHILAO
BANDIDAS
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY BATANGAS
FINAL DESTINATION 3
D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

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PAMAHIIN
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
EIGHT BELOW
D LUCKY ONES
SENTINEL
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN
THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
SENTINEL
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
BANDIDAS
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY LUCENA
ULTRAVIOLET
BANDIDAS
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D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MOLINO
SENTINEL
PAMAHIIN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
D LUCKY ONES

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
RESERVED
SENTINEL
11:10FS / 11:15 MF / 01:18
03:21 / 05:24 / 07:27
09:17 LFS / 09:30 LMF
11:20 END
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:10
02:50 / 04:30 / 06:10 07:50
09:20 LFS / 09:30 LMF
11:00 END
THE WILD
JUST FRIENDS
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY ILOILO
JUST FRIENDS
RESERVED
D LUCKY ONES
SILENT HILL
PAMAHIIN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
RESERVED
TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY DAVAO
SENTINEL
PAMAHIIN
EIGHT BELOW
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD

SM CITY CAGAYAN
EIGHT BELOW
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

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3 (DOLBY) WHEN A STRANGER CALLS PG13
4 (DOLBY) SILENT HILL R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SLITHER R18

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4 GOLD (DTS) THE WILD
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
6 GOLD (SDDS) SILENT HILL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE SENTINEL
8 (DOLBY STEREO) SUBMERGED
9 (DOLBY STEREO) PAMAHIIN
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2 THE SENTINEL
3 SILENT HILL
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
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2 SLITHER
3 D' LUCKY ONES
4 THE WILD
5 THE SENTINEL

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SILENT HILL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
5 SLITHER

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2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

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2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 (DTS EX) THE WILD
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

Centre Plaza Cinema
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2 PAMAHIIN

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4 THE WILD

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4 SLITHER

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2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 (DOLBY) PAMAHIIN

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2 PAMAHIIN

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2 PAMAHIIN
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4 SLITHER
5 THE WILD

Fiesta World Mall
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1 FINAL DESTINATION-3
2 D' LUCKY ONES
3 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
4 PAMAHIIN

Berma Cinema
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2 BETTER THAN SEX

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A tribute to Pinoys abroad

ABS-CBN'S NEW TUESDAY-EVENING DRAMA show, "Nagmamahal Kapamilya," is the network's latest tribute to Filipinos living and working overseas.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The anthology program hosted by **Bernadette Sembrano** began its telecast on April 18 with a dramatization on the search of a young man (**Vhong Navarro**) for his birth mother (**Gloria Diaz**).

The searcher, Ricky, is the son of a teenage girl named Lydia (**Meryll Soriano**) by her lover, a married radio announcer (**Dennis Padilla**). Lydia was persuaded to give her baby to the announcer's sister (**Nova Villa**), who became his adoptive parent.

However, Ricky continued to pine for his real mother, and even joined the US Navy just to be able to look for her in the States.

The April 18 telecast ended with **Sembrano** getting in touch with Lydia in the States by phone, and arranging her first meeting with Ricky, after so many years.

Part 2 will be telecast next Tuesday.

On the plus side, the show's premiere episode began briskly, with short, textured scenes that quickly drew viewers into the poignant drama of a boy who instinctively longed for his birth mother.

Many dramas have already tackled the topic, but it's so elemental that it still holds some interest for viewers.

And the dramatization's brisk and involving initial development encouraged that interest.

Meryll's performance helped create this empathetic bond, because her portrayal was felt and focused.

Later, however, the show's story telling became diffuse, so it lost some of that necessary focus.

In addition, **Vhong** was initially made to play Ricky as a new high school graduate, and was obviously too old to pass muster in that assignment, so the show's credibility was further dampened.

Thus, the new series' initial dramatization was not the success it should have been.

Perhaps it would have come off better if everything had been completed in one episode, instead of making the drama a two-part production.

But we continue to hope that the new show will soon get its act together, because it's chosen to mine a particularly rich motherlode of theme and plot—the bittersweet experiences of millions of Filipinos who have opted, for many reasons, to uproot themselves from the Philippines, and live and work in other countries.

This is an important aspect of the Filipino's life today, and affects him not just in economic terms, but personally and psychologically as well.

So, we do need a TV show that will perceptively tackle the many issues related to the Filipino Diaspora that has altered the fabric of our collective lives in so many ways.

Let's hope that "Nagmamahal, Kapamilya" proves itself capable of doing exactly that.

Ex-Miss Universe . . .

From page A2-6

appeared as **Herod** in 1992 and again in 2002 and 2003.

The multi-awarded actor recently completed a Broadway run of "Salome" with **Marissa Tomei** in the title role, **David Strathairn** (who was great in "Good Night, and Good Luck") as **Jokanaan** and **Dianne Wiest** as **Herodias**. Now, he is on a month-long run in LA with a different principal cast. **Jessica Chastain**, a fresh Juilliard drama school graduate, gets to do the famous dance.

On the night that we watched, the theater did not open its doors early despite the rain that got heavier, so we all huddled and squeezed ourselves under the awning by the entrance. The common quip among the crowd was that we must really admire **Pacino**. After all, this was only a staged reading—which means some members of the cast, in street clothes, carried their scripts on an almost bare stage. **Estelle Parsons**, the 78-year-old director, stressed in her program notes that **Oscar Wilde** "had actually written it ('Salome') to be read for the beauty of the language." **Wilde** wrote it first in French and then translated it in English.

A lone cameraman filmed this scene of theatergoers arriving in the rain. I wondered why. I just found out that **Al** was making a documentary about this production which he hopes to show in Cannes next year.

So how did **Al** fare in his nth outing as the king of Judea? We caught a preview performance so it's not really fair to comment at length, but we can say that in most scenes, **Al**, speaking in a singsong manner, seemed to be playing the character for laughs. And the audience was willing to buy it. After all, this was **Pacino** in the flesh, albeit in the type of baggy clothes that he had worn to our interviews with him.

Jessica Chastain, taking over from **Marissa Tomei** as Salome due to scheduling conflicts, ends up lying, topless, in front of **Al** after her "Dance of the Seven Veils." If there was any way to upstage **Al Pacino**, this was definitely the way to do it.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

"SHE still looked like Miss Universe."

Chat Silayan: a real pro

From page A2-2

tress last week, but ended up visiting her. "When I saw her in the hospital, I told her: 'You're thin, but still beautiful.' Her hair was still thick, long and shiny. *Pang-Miss Universe pa rin.*

Chat will be laid to rest on April 29 at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

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ICE AGE 2 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 SUBMERGED 7:15 / 9:40	PAMAHIIN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	TRISTAN & ISOLDE 7:10 / 9:50 EIGHT BELOW 2:00 / 4:30	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

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4	PAMAHIIN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8.40	5	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8.45

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2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
3 THE SENTINEL	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 SILENT HILL	11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
5 SLITHER	1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
6 THE WILD	1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
7 PAMAHIIN	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 D' LUCKY ONES	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
9 EIGHT BELOW	1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40
10 SUBMERGED	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Movie	Times
1 THE SENTINEL	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 D' LUCKY ONES	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 THE WILD	12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25
5 SLITHER	12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 PAMAHIIN	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9.50
7 SILENT HILL	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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Movie	Times
1 EIGHT BELOW	1:10 3:45 6:20 9:00
2 THE WILD	12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
3 D' LUCKY ONES	12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00
4 SILENT HILL	12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 THE SENTINEL	11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS	12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9.10
7 SLITHER	11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
8 PAMAHIIN	12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

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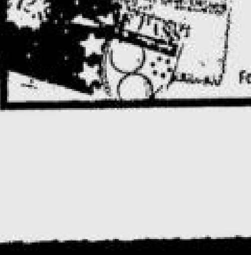

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Ex-Miss Universe on Chat: 'She was the real deal'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WHEN I READ **MARINEL CRUZ'S** story on **Ma. Rosario "Chat" Silayan**'s death, I immediately passed on the sad news to my colleague, Miss Universe 1978, **Margaret Gardiner.**

Margaret, now a print and TV journalist based in LA, served as one of the judges in the 1980 Miss Universe pageant where **Chat** did very well, ending up as third runner-up. South Africa's first ever Miss Universe paid tribute to **Chat**: "I am so saddened to hear of the untimely death of **Rosario**. I recall her clearly. She was a vision in a blue-green off-the-shoulder gown. Her natural grace made her an early front runner in the contest. She was the real deal. All one had to do was see if she could talk as well as she could walk—and she did not disappoint."

Margaret added, "The Miss Universe interview is one of the most grueling. People from all walks of life ask questions on topics as diverse as history, sociology or simply trick questions to see how a candidate thinks under pressure. **Rosario** came through brilliantly. When her name was called as one of the top five, it was no surprise. She conducted herself admirably with grace, intelligence and a winning smile. She will not be forgotten. My prayers go out to her family and to her country."

MISS Universe 1978 Margaret Gardiner and husband Andre Nel. Gardiner was a judge in the 1980 Miss Universe pageant where Chat Silayan placed third. JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

Margaret and I got to talk about **Chat** about a year ago. We've known each other for several years but the tall and stunning journalist never brought up the fact that she was a former Miss Universe. The name **Margaret Gardiner**, however, sounded familiar to me. When I learned by accident on the Internet that she was the **Margaret Gardiner**, the first and, so far, the only South African to win the most prestigious of all the international pageant titles, she was very modest about it.

Once, at the LA salon of **Willy Lacap**, they played an old videotape of the Miss Universe pageant held in Korea, the one in which **Chat** competed. Lo and behold, when host **Bob Barker** introduced the judges, my wife **Janet** and I were surprised to see that **Margaret** was one of the VIPs who had a hand in choosing the winner. When I told **Margaret** about seeing her on the tape, she said that **Chat** was among her favorites.

Friendly, principled and always lending a sympathetic ear, **Margaret** is one of our favorite people as well. Married to Prof. **Andre Nel**, she is a doting mother to her young son. She works for various South African media.

Margaret told me that she just attended the launch party of the book, "Universal Beauty: The Miss Universe Guide to Beauty," presided by **Donald Trump** at the Trump Tower in New York. She said, "Fifteen Miss Universe title holders flew in. We had a blast."

My wife **Janet**, who interviewed **Chat** several times as a reporter for the now defunct Times Journal group of publications,.also shared her fond memories of the departed daughter of the late great actor **Vic Silayan**: "**Chat** was not just a beauty queen-turned-actress to me. She was one of those rare celebrities whom you can easily call a friend as soon as you meet her. She was not only down-to-earth. She was also honest, sincere and trusting. I still remember vividly when I interviewed her for a play featuring her at the CulCP's Bulwagang Gantimpala. It was her first lead role in a play. She always welcomed you with a warm smile. We hit it off right away.

"When she emceed on 'Student Canteen,' I enjoyed talking to her as if she were one of my buddies. We often bumped into each other in the fashion shows of **Renee Salud** (her discoverer and mentor—he designed the gown that **Margaret** still remembers to this day). The warm camaraderie and sincerity of her smile were always there. **Chat** may no longer be around but I will always remember her."

***

It's not every day that you see **Al Pacino** onstage in LA so **Janet** and I braved a Manila-like downpour to catch the first preview performance of his "Salome" at the Wadsworth Theatre.

Apparently, the great **Al** fell in love with **Oscar Wilde**'s play about the biblical story of the stepdaughter of **Herod**, who asks for the head of **Jokanaan** (**St. John** the Baptist) in return for her "Dance of the Seven Veils," since he first saw it in London in 1989. Al first

EX-MISS/ A2-5

AL PACINO basks in the applause after his performance as Herod in "Salome."

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NISSAN

Reduced tariff to cut oil prices by 50¢/liter

Lower duty on oil preferred over lifting of VAT

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC MANAGERS HAVE AGREED to reduce the tariff on imported petroleum products from three to one percent to ease consumers' spending burden brought on by high oil prices.

The move to reduce the tariff on oil products will slash pump prices by an average of 50 centavos a liter.

According to Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is already preparing a draft executive order that will implement the tariff rate reduction.

Once approved by the Tariff and Related Matters committee, the executive order will be submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo for immediate signing.

He said the Arroyo administration's economic team—composed of the Neda, the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Energy—wants the executive order to be issued on or before May 14, the last day of the congressional recess.

This is because tariff revisions via the issuance of an executive order is only allowed when Congress is in recess. Otherwise, adjustment in duties would require legislation by Congress.

The administration has decided to reduce the oil tariff, instead of lifting the value-added tax on oil, to mitigate the impact of high fuel prices.

Beltran said that lifting the VAT on oil

REDUCED/ B7

INDICATORS

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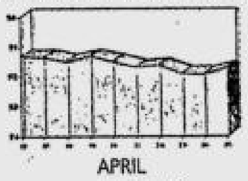

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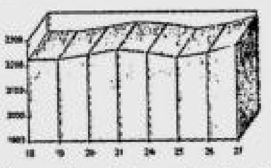


(See stock market report on Page B8)

Shares close 1.52% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY ROSE 1.52 PERCENT, hitting their highest levels in nearly seven years on gains led by market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

SHARES/ B2

IC probes airlines' unregulated insurance charges

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION IS now looking into the insurance surcharges collected by airlines to cover passengers' risks.

IC Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said that airlines have been charging insurance surcharges which are not sanctioned by the regulatory body.

The commission is now trying to find out whether the insurance companies covering such risks are including the charges in the premium collections reported to the commission, she said.

"Based on the figures that we get, they are not included," Escobillo said in an interview.

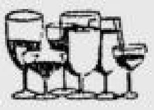
Since the surcharges are not being regulated by the IC, there are concerns over whether the collections adequately cover risks, and whether proper taxes are being paid to the government.

Escobillo said the taxes payable to the government based on the amount of insurance surcharges could amount to billions of pesos.

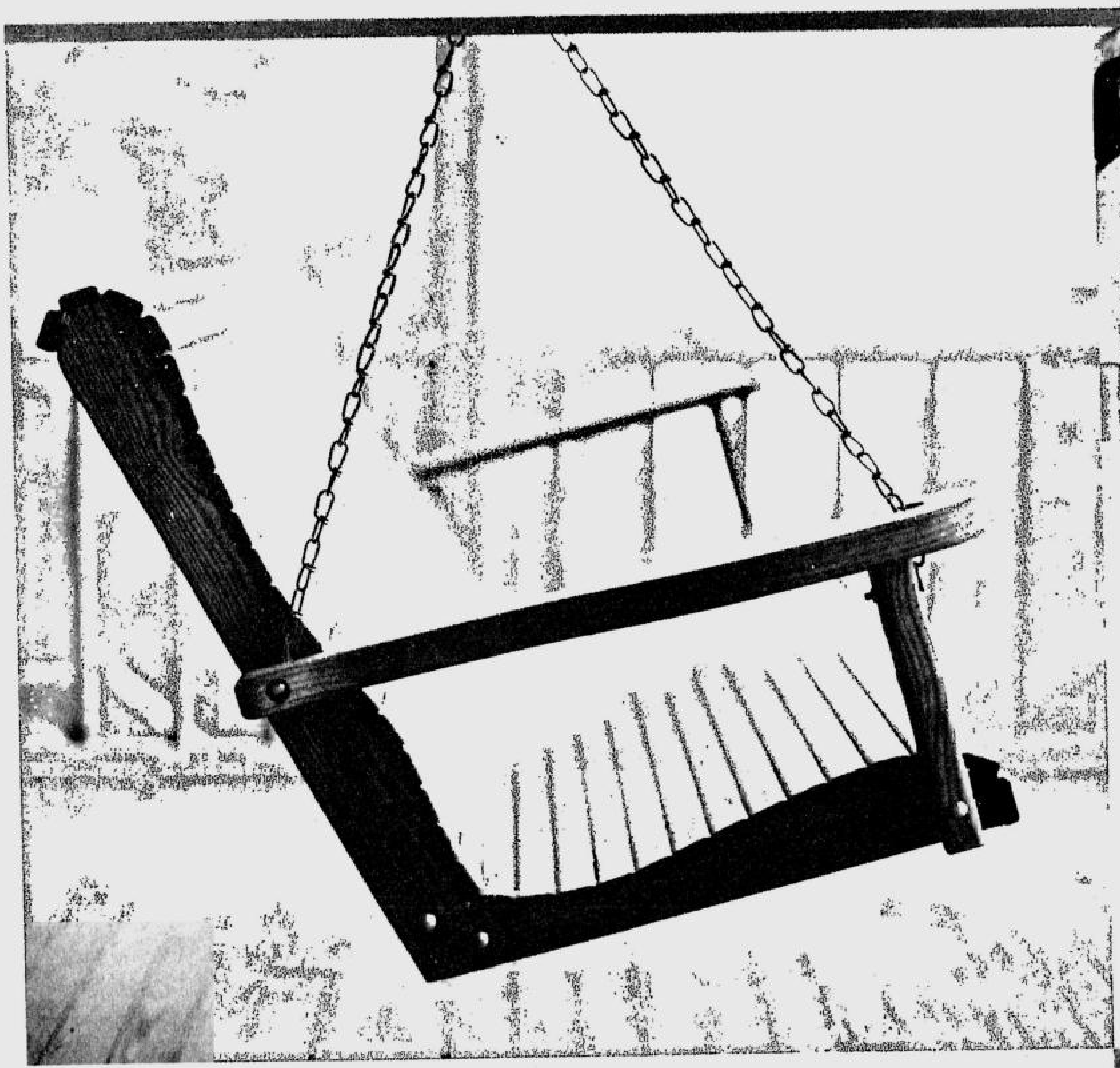
She said the airline insurance issue was brought to her attention by Rep. Herminio Teves, who has been conducting his own investigation on the matter.

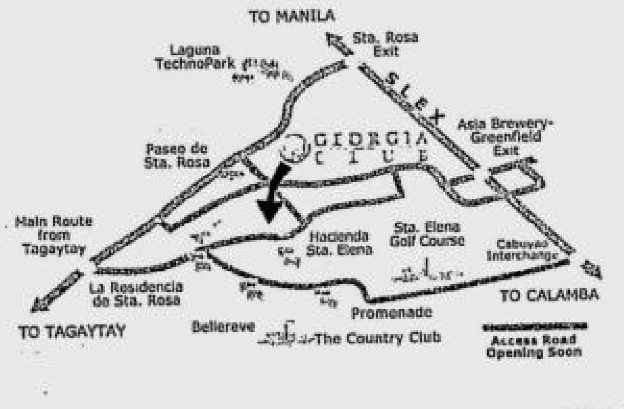
IC PROBES/ B7.

WHAT'S INSIDE



Razon stuck in Mariana trench /B3
Mindanao grew 5.2% in 2005, Medco says /B8





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Customs' VAT revenue target increased by 100%

Petroleum import bill seen higher than projected

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED THE BUreau of Customs' value-added tax revenue projection for this year by more than 100 percent, saying petroleum import bill would likely be higher than expected.

The government earlier projected an incremental Customs revenue of P27.33 billion this year to be raised through the implementation of the VAT Reform Law.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), however, increased the BOC's goal to P55.43 billion upon the recommendation of Albay Rep. and presidential economic adviser Joey Salceda.

"The congressman said the BOC should be expected to raise higher VAT incremental revenue because most of the new sectors that are included in the VAT base are imported petroleum products," a DBCC source said.

The increase in the BOC's target was also in line with the continued rise in oil prices, which jacked up the base amount slapped with the 12 percent VAT.

Despite the expected increase in its VAT revenue, the bureau's collection target for the year of P196 billion will be retained. This is because the appreciation of the peso is seen to pull down the value of the BOC's potential duty collection.

The DBCC had projected that the peso would average at between 55 and 57 to a dollar this year, but it later on revised its forecast to between 51 and 53 to a dollar in view of the strong inflow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and the positive market reaction on the government's declining budget deficit.

The government had set early this year a target of collecting a total of P75.086 billion worth of incremental revenue from the VAT Reform Law this year. The P75.086 billion is divided between the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Officials said the total amount of expected revenues from the RVAT would remain almost unchanged despite the hike in the BOC's VAT-collection target. This is because the increase in the BOC's target was matched with the reduction in the VAT revenue target of the BIR.

The BIR was required to collect P46.751 billion in VAT revenue but the DBCC slashed the target by more than half to only P20.36 billion. This was due to the government's failure to take into account in the computation of the original target the input VAT credit claims of taxpayers.

Fisheries in global trade

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST APRIL 24, A SEMINAR ENTITled "Improving Trade Policy in the Philippines: An Assessment of the Economy-wide Impact of the Tariff Changes in the Early 2000s" was held. It was funded by AusAID.

The main speakers were Primo Rodriguez of UP Los Baños and Helen Cabalu of the Curtin University of Technology in Australia.

TC director Edgardo Maralit and his staff should be commended for making transparent findings that run contrary to predictions made by some TC officials, who, at times, equate trade liberalization with progress.

Findings

For the section on the impact of the actual tariff changes in 2005, Rodriguez and Cabalu stated in the study: "The long run results indicate an expected contraction in the output of agriculture, fishery and forestry."

For the section on the impact of tariff changes in four alternative scenarios where the rates are further decreased, they stated: "Long run output of agriculture, fishery and forestry is likely to contract in alternative scenarios. In fact, moves toward (lower) uniform tariffs may cause a larger contraction of the sector. This is because the high tariff on agricultural commodities imply larger cuts in the move toward uniform rates."

It is in the context of these findings that we look at fisheries, a critical sector now being discussed in the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations in Geneva.

The fishery industry, the poorest sector in the Philippines, is rapidly growing. Carmelita Ericta, National Statistics Office ad-

FISHERIES/ B5

Shares close …

From page B1

Investors are positioning themselves in anticipation of a healthy set of first-quarter results, while the continued decline in oil prices also buoyed up the market, they said.

Government's refusal to waive the value-added tax on petroleum products despite high oil prices also aided sentiment, dealers said.

The composite index added 34.25 points to 2,281.39 after trading between 2,258.51 and 2,284.08. It was the index's best finish since Aug. 6, 1999, when it closed at 2,298.18. The all-shares index rose 20.95 points to 1,409.13.

Volume was 2.1 billion shares worth P2.9 billion. Gainers beat losers 54 to 44, with 52 stocks unchanged.

The peso traded at 51.885 to the greenback as of mid-day.

PLDT, the most actively traded stock, rose P40 to a record P2,035 after its American Depositary Receipts advanced in New York overnight.

SM Investments was up P11 at P240, while Aboitiz Equity Ventures rose 10 centavos to P5.50. *AFP*

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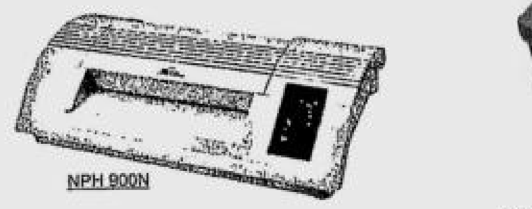
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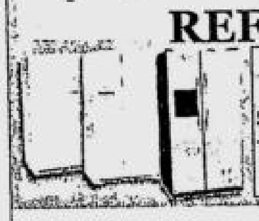

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In relation to Turkey's initiative in 2005 for a "Trade Development Strategy Towards the Asia Pacific Countries" which has generated promising results that exceeds its average export growth rate, a Turkish trade mission of fifty (50) companies is coming to Manila to look for prospective agents, distributors and trade partners in the Philippines. The companies joining the **TRADE MISSION** will be representing four (4) major industries:

Textile:
- carpets and kilims
- home textile (curtain, tulle, tablecloths, bedclothes, bed linen)
- synthetic filament yarn
- woven fabric (wool, cotton, flax, staple fibers, denim woven pile fabric)
- yarn & fiber

Food & Agricultural Products:
- biscuits, bread & pastry
- confectionery & chocolates
- dairy products (whey, cheese, etc.)
- dried fruits (raisin, almond, pistachio nut, apricot, etc.)
- flour & yeast
- fruit juice
- olive oil
- pasta & noodles
- tomato paste & ketchup
- vegetables (cucumber, dried tomato peas, etc.)
- mineral water
- wheat flour
- cereals
- herbs
- seeds
- spices
- bakery ingredients
- general foodstuffs
- all types of nuts
- choco & nocha
- cafe trola

Construction Materials:
- aluminum and tin plate
- ceramic sanitaryware
- copper and materials made from copper (thick rope, cables, knitting ropes, etc.)
- marble, travertine
- masterplan & feasibility study services
- materials made from iron and steel (pipes, wires, towers, pylons, cooking appliance)

Machinery & Equipment:
- agricultural machines, appliances, equipments and parts
- carpet making machine edge banding machine
- electrical machines and appliances and its parts and accessories
- mill processing machine
- motor vehicles, tractors, and its parts and accessories
- motors, transformer and its parts
- wood working machine

[illegible]

The Commercial Section of the Turkish Embassy is now arranging meetings between participating Turkish companies and interested local traders, distributors, retailers and end-users for potential business tie-ups.

INQUIRY FORM Please fax back to 750-8585 or 844-2882
TURKISH TRADE MISSION
11 - 12 May 2006 • Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel
☐ YES! Please send me more information. We would like to meet Turkish companies engaged in:
☐ Textile ☐ Food & Agricultural Products
☐ Construction Materials ☐ Machinery & Equipment
Contact Person: ____ Position: ____
Company Name: ____
Address: ____
Phone: ____ Fax: ____
Email: ____ Website: ____
Main Line of Business: ____ Product Line: ____
For more information, you may contact Global-Link Marketing & Management Services, Inc. at tel. no: 750-8588 or email: patrick.tan@globallinkph.com or the Turkish Embassy at tel nos: 889-4636 / 843-9705 ext. 104 or email: trmanila@pldtdsl.net
Mission Organizers
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade
Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters' Association
In cooperation with
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming Bayan

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 31, 2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 5,881,157,695
Due from Bangko Sentral	14,613,236,667
Due from Other Banks	1,416,303,246
Interbank Loans Receivable	19,060,937,925
Trading Account Securities (Net)	3,398,669,121
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	97,876,860,387
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	126,945,180,150
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	-
Equity Investments (Net)	2,841,962,097
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	5,111,681,469
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	13,405,882,715
Others	18,044,875,246
TOTAL ASSETS	P 308,596,746,718
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 89,757,350,024
Savings Deposits	120,190,017,097
Time Deposits	26,069,943,815
Special/Other Deposits	606,467,448
Due to Bangko Sentral	135,475,827
Due to Banks	52,139,117
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,487,044,583
Bills Payable	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	450,269,888
Interbank Borrowings	-
Deposits Substitutes	237,058,512
Others	27,117,011,434
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,271,165,951
Other Liabilities	11,892,996,747
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 281,266,940,423
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 11,471,000,000
Surplus	9,306,071,347
Surplus Reserves	3,059,552,221
Other Capital Accounts	3,493,182,727
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	27,329,808,295
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 308,596,746,718
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 2,283,508,181
Bills for Collection	1,499,242,270
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	12,749,331,827
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(1,770,885,814)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	
Invested in:	
- Government Securities	21,563,408,056
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	71,180,854
- Loans and Discounts*	175,632,509
- Other Assets	4,458,361,264
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	17,390,004,524
- Common Trust Funds	1,621,089,054
- Investment/Fund Management	7,257,489,195
Other Contingent Accounts	521,056,508
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 41,551,035,745

OTHER INFORMATION

1.	Deposits of	
	a. Government	P 158,885,448,613
	b. Banks	5,597,693,538
	c. Trust Department	606,519,943
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	
	a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)	22.66%
	b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)	4.70%
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans	11,473,626,282*
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	7.06 %
5.	Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	35,308,928,210
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses	1,193,692,722
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses	15,259,444,880
8.	Return on Equity (ROE)	13.40%
9.	Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances	16,454,472,598
10.	Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	10.13%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances	

** Includes Loans Classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P1,013,270,534.18*

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
SVP, Controllership Group

Sgd. ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR.
SEVP, Institutional Banking and Subsidiaries Sector

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 24th day of April 2006 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12306628, issued in Manila on January 6, 2006 and Residence Certificate No. 12326134 issued in Manila on January 9, 2006.

Doc. No. 119
Page No 25
Book No II
Series of 2006

DENNIS L. WAGAS
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 4547218/MLA/1-02-06
IBP No. 658149/MLA IV/1-06-06

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of March 31, 2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	P 5,884,235,049
Due from Bangko Sentral	14,613,236,667
Due from Other Banks	1,431,160,092
Interbank Loans Receivable	19,060,937,925
Trading Account Securities (Net)	3,398,669,121
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	97,935,531,580
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	127,163,617,449
Underwriting Accounts (Net)	-
Equity Investments (Net)	1,864,566,814
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)	5,211,284,595
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	13,421,982,948
Others	19,129,992,465
TOTAL ASSETS	P 309,115,214,725
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	P 89,722,972,892
Savings Deposits	120,157,769,079
Time Deposits	26,069,943,816
Special/Other Deposits	606,467,448
Due to Bangko Sentral	135,475,827
Due to Banks	52,139,117
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	1,490,435,510
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs	450,269,888
Interbank Borrowings	-
Deposits Substitutes	237,058,512
Others	27,117,011,434
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	3,829,836,357
Other Liabilities	11,920,684,370
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P 281,790,064,250
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	P 11,471,000,000
Surplus	9,303,427,364
Surplus Reserves	3,059,599,805
Other Capital Accounts	3,491,123,306
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	27,325,150,475
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P 309,115,214,725
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P 2,283,508,181
Bills for Collection	1,499,242,270
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	12,749,331,827
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	(1,770,885,814)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	
Invested in:	
- Government Securities	21,563,408,056
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	71,180,854
- Loans and Discounts	175,632,599
- Other Assets	4,458,361,264
Accountabilities:	
- Trust and Other Fiduciary	17,390,004,524
- Common Trust Funds	1,621,089,054
- Investment/Fund Management	7,257,489,195
Other Contingent Accounts	521,056,508
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P 41,551,035,745

OTHER INFORMATION

1.	Deposits of	
	a. Government	P 158,885,448,613
	b. Banks	5,597,693,538
	c. Trust Department	606,519,943
2.	List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries	
	a. LBP Leasing Corporation	
	b. LBP Financial Services, SPA	
	c. LBP Remittance Co., USA	

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
SVP, Controllership Group

Sgd. ALFONSO B. CRUZ, JR
SEVP, Institutional Banking and Subsidiaries Sector

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Doc. No. 120
Page No 25
Book No II
Series of 2006

DENNIS L. WAGAS
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 4547218/MLA/1-02-06
IBP No. 658149/MLA IV/1-06-06

HEAD OFFICE
1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
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Razon stuck in Mariana trench

COCKTALES
Victor C. Agustin

CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES KING Enrique Razon Jr. has foundered in the Marianas regulatory shoals in his attempt to take over the Guam port.

Although International Container Terminal Services topped the December bidding, the Port of Authority of Guam has balked at awarding the $24-million-a-year-revenue contract to it after Razon allegedly decided to form a local subsidiary, instead of his ICTSI, to directly operate the port's containerized terminal.

According to the daily Marianas Variety, Razon wanted to take in a local partner, the influential Calvo family, as a joint-venture partner to operate the Apra harbor facility.

The standoff has already cost the head of the chair of the port authority, who was fired by Guam Gov. Felix Camacho earlier this month after he failed to meet the March 31 deadline Camacho had imposed to resolve the issue.

The dismissed official, incidentally, doubles as a senior executive for a local bank controlled by the family of the lieutenant governor.

Guam-based lawyers of Razon have, in the meantime, been quoted as having accused the port authority of negotiating in "bad faith." Razon himself declined to add fuel to the fire when reached yesterday.

MVP gains BW foothold

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan has emerged

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PHILAM PLANS

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2005

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	₱ 260,116,398
Due installments	359,777,815
Financial Assets	
Available-for-sale financial assets	428,780,656
Loans and receivables- net	28,035,554
Prepayments and accrued income	56,769,471
Investments in trust funds	19,886,764,402
Deferred commissions	570,118,880
Property and equipment- net	22,537,079
Other assets	10,405,228
TOTAL ASSETS	₱ 21,623,310,785
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	₱ 1,092,558,160
Actuarial reserve liabilities	18,066,188,237
Pension liability	15,341,882
Income tax payable	4,251,887
Deferred tax liability- net	12,280,085
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,190,618,211
Stockholders' Equity	
Capital stock	700,000,000
Revaluation reserve for available-for-sale financial assets	1,487,949,378
Retained earnings	244,743,196
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	2,432,692,574
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	₱ 21,623,310,785

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MANILA) S.S.

We, Jesus G. Hofileña and Teresita O. Salonga of the above-mentioned pre-need company do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

JESUS G. HOFILEÑA,FLMI,LLIF
President & C E O

TERESITA O. SALONGA
Treasurer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 17th day of April, 2006 at Manila affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax certificate No 02148155 issued at Manila on February 28, 2006 and Community Tax Certificate No 02153430 issued at Manila on February 9, 2006 respectively.

Doc No 135
Page No 28
Book No 1
Series of 2006

ANNA RICHIE U. MORALES
Notary Public
Until December 31 2006
Roll of Attorneys No 42752
PTR No 4550331/1-04-05/Manila
IBP No 633607/1-05-05/Tarlac

(Consolidated Trust Fund)
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2005

ASSETS	
Cash	₱ 298,012,215
AFS financial assets	19,035,904,477
Accrued income	555,684,058
Property and Equipment	49,883,850
Investment property	62,370,000
	20,001,894,600
LESS LIABILITIES	
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	115,130,198
	₱ 19,886,764,402
NET EQUITY	
Fund balance, beginning of the year	₱ 14,274,559,178
Additional contributions- net of withdrawals	2,404,654,682
Cumulative effect of change in accounting policy for financial instruments	17,813,583
	16,697,027,443
Net Income	1,680,043,974
Revaluation Reserve for AFS	1,509,692,985
Fund balance, end of year	₱ 19,886,764,402

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MANILA) S.S.

We, Jesus G. Hofileña and Teresita O. Salonga of the above-mentioned pre-need company do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

JESUS G. HOFILEÑA,FLMI,LLIF
President & C E O

TERESITA O. SALONGA
Treasurer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 17th day of April, 2006 at Manila affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax certificate No 02148155 issued at Manila on February 28, 2006 and Community Tax Certificate No 02153430 issued at Manila on February 9, 2006 respectively.

Doc No 139
Page No 28
Book No 1
Series of 2006

ANNA RICHIE U. MORALES
Notary Public
Until December 31 2006
Roll of Attorneys No 42752
PTR No 4550331/1-04-05/Manila
IBP No 633607/1-05-05/Tarlac

Calaca bidding hits snag

DMCI went to wrong venue; First Gen submits bid

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED PRIVATIZATION of National Power Corp.'s big power plants again met a snag as bidding for the 600-megawatt Calaca coal-fired generator complex could be declared a failure.

Informed sources said that as of press time, representatives of qualified bidders First Generation Luzon Power and DMCI Holdings were in talks with bidding officials on whether to declare a failure or to proceed with the process after DMCI went to the wrong venue to submit its documents.

Officially, bid documents were supposed to be submitted to a function room at the PNOC Energy Development Corp. headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig, but DMCI representatives went to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. offices along Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

PSALM is the government agency tasked to privatize all of Napocor's assets under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

DMCI owns Semirara Mining Corp., the country's largest coal producer which operates mines in Semirara Island between Mindoro and Panay.

One of Calaca's two 300-MW units was designed primarily to run on Semirara coal, as most other coal-fired plants in the country run on better-quality stock from foreign mines.

The Calaca plant, located in the town of the same name in Batangas, was originally put on the block last June but only First Gen showed up to submit bids.

Two other qualified bidders, Japanese firm Mitsui & Co. Ltd. and Filipino-Malaysian Phil-Mal Petroenergy Corp., backed out shortly before the deadline.

A second bidding was set last November but was subsequently moved to April 27.

Officials have said at least four entities were interested to buy the Calaca plant.

New rules seen raising mango exports

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY said it expected a significant increase in mango shipments to the United States as Washington came out with proposed rules making it easier for countries like the Philippines to export fruits and plants.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the proposal issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture provided that local mango exporters could penetrate the Hawaii and Guam markets.

The proposed rules would also allow the entry of Philippine mangoes harvested from areas other than Guimaras.

Favila said the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Washington has already referred to the office of the Agricultural Attache in Washington DC to officially comment, on behalf of the Philippine government, on the proposed rules.

"Allowing mangoes to be imported into Hawaii and Guam from additional production areas in the Philippines could result in mango exports from the Philippines capturing a larger share of those two markets," he said.

The official cited data from the USDA showed a growing trend in the consumption of mango in the US, from 0.10 kilograms per capita in 1979 through 0.23 kilos in 1989 to 0.81 kilos in 2000.

Official trade data showed that earnings from mango exports reached $26.6 million in 2005, down about 7 percent from $28.7 million in 2004. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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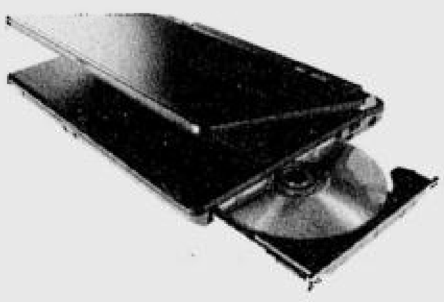

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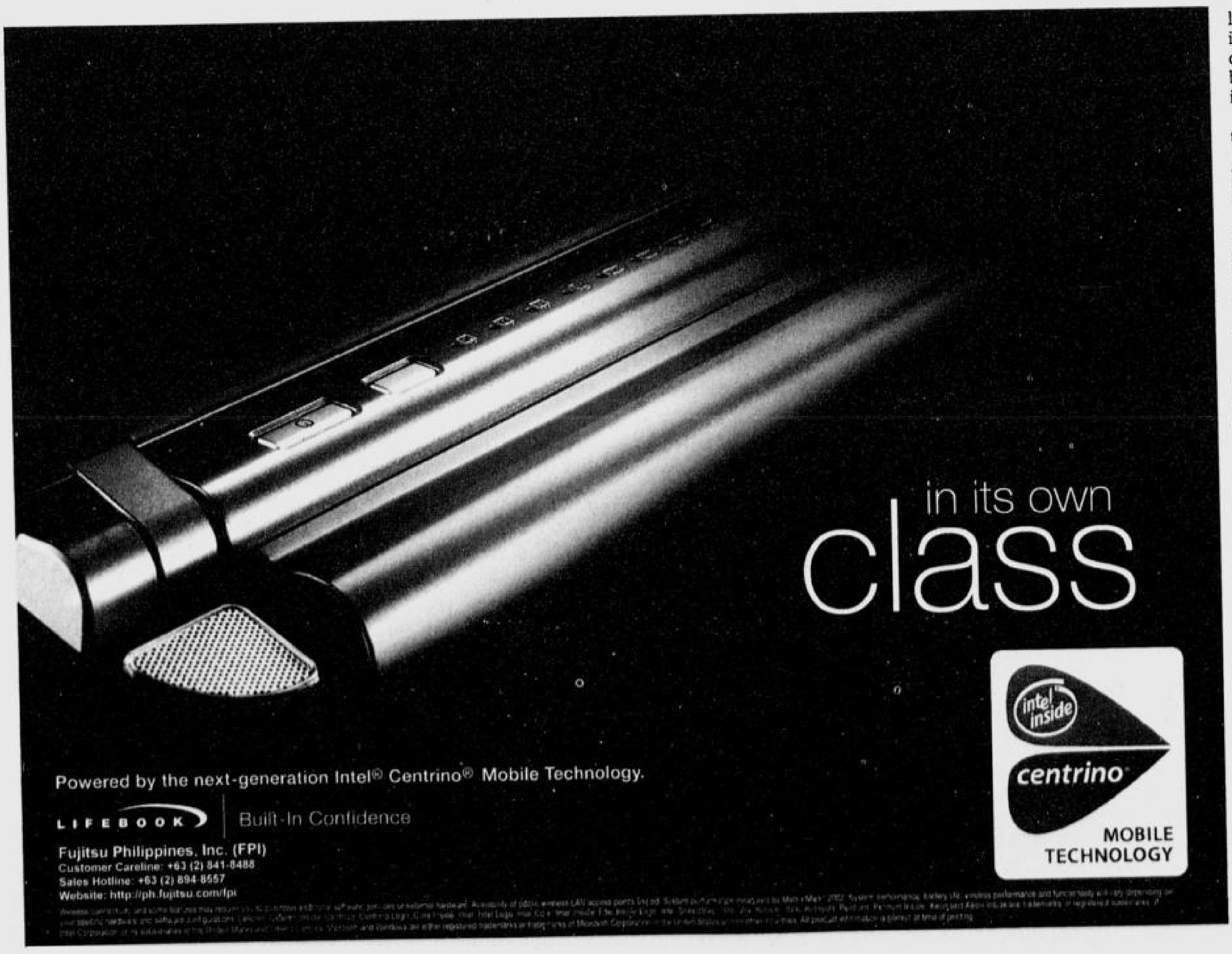

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BIMP-Eaga taps halal market

By Michelle V. Remo

BRUNEI, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND THE Philippines have agreed to facilitate the establishment of the Eaga Poultry Corp. under the BIMP-East Asia Growth Area cooperation project.

The company to be jointly owned by private-sector representatives from each country will export halal food to the Middle East.

Under the agreement, each representative will pour in $2.5 million to meet the initial capitalization target of $10 million.

Companies that signified interest in the project include BMC Food Industries Sdn Bhd of Brunei, Central Cold Storage Sdn. Bhd. and Sandika Group of Indonesia and Maharlika Agro-Marine Ventures of the Philippines.

Trade and Industry director Merly M. Cruz said during the Good News Kapihan yesterday that the establishment of the BIMP-Eaga corporation was consistent with the group's goal to shift focus from developing intra-regional trade to becoming a major participant in global trade.

The BIMP-Eaga governments have tapped the German Technical Cooperation to help fund the feasibility study on the creation of the Eaga Poultry Corp.

Christian Widmann, GTZ's project manager for the promotion of BIM-Eaga economic cooperation, said yesterday that the feasibili-

BIMP-EAGA / B7

Cocktales

From page B3

as the buyer of the 30-percent Zobel block in BusinessWorld.

According to the grapevine, the business daily was formally informed of MVP's buy-in during the paper's stockholders' meeting Wednesday, when three Zobel board representatives led by Zobel's son Iñigo announced their impending replacements by MVP nominees.

The Zobel block had been up for sale since tycoon Enrique Zobel died in May 2004.

It was not clear how much MVP paid for the Zobel shares, but the block was at one point offered to at least two other parties for P30 million.

According to the grapevine, 60 percent of the paper is controlled by the late Raul Locsin's daughter, Barbara, despite the shareholdings being supposedly owned by the employees' cooperative.

The remaining 10 percent is held by various editors and executives.

News of the MVP buy-in has elated a number of BusinessWorld employees who had become dispirited over the steady editorial slide, frequent staff turnover and the paper's diminishing returns.

Going with Gobing

SY STOCKBROKER Eddie Gobing has been advised by SM heiress Teresita Sy to mend fences with his long-time friend, fellow stockbroker Robert Coyiuto Jr.

The Gobing-Coyiuto fallout came in the heat of the Philippine Stock Exchange elections, after Gobing reportedly switched sides and joined forces with Coyiuto's rival, Vivian Yuchengco.

Despite the switch, Coyiuto still managed to top the board elections, mainly, according to the grapevine, through the help of proxies from institutional investors like PLDT and ATR-Kim Eng.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SM GROUP has shortlisted three hotel chains, one of which is Accor, to help design and eventually operate two luxury hotels at the Mall of Asia.

The hotels would serve as natural adjuncts to the 40,000-square meter SM exhibition and convention center that is targeted for completion mid-2007. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

Fisheries . . .

From page B2

ministrator, said the number of fishing operators had risen to more than 1.8 million from 584,000 in 1980. Of these, 1.78 million or 99 percent are small municipal operators while the rest are into commercial fishing.

Jaime Escober Jr., Tambuyog Development Center information officer, said the number of people dependent on fishing was actually close to 2.9 million.

"This is because household members of municipal fishing operators were also asked if they also engage in fishing, to which 1.1 million replied yes," he said.

Level playing field

Despite this, however, this sector gets very little subsidy from the government. Consider the table below on comparative fish subsidies.

Country	Subsidy in US$ (million)
European	$992
U.S.	$863
Canada	$399
Indonesia	$254
Philippines	$2

To level the international playing field, we must look at the total support a government gives to a particular sector, in the form of subsidies and tariffs . Where massive subsidies are given to imports coming from another country, a level playing field dictates that we should protect our fisherfolk with higher tariffs.

Despite the low subsidy level for our fishery sector, we have not provided our fisherfolk with protective tariffs. The World Trade Report 2005 states that while there is a 31-percent average tariff for fish and fish products in Vietnam, 30 percent in India, and 19 percent in Cambodia. The Philippines' average tariff is only 8 percent.

WTO negotiations

At present, the fishery sector is lumped with industry in WTO's Non-Agricultural Market Access Agreement, instead of the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA). Because of this, it is subject to the Nama tariff reduction formula.

The current method used in Nama is the Swiss formula, which was rejected in the AOA. It can be a punishing formula, especially for developing nations, since the tariff reduction is very rapid. At this time, the current Swiss formula coefficient being discussed to determine the rate of tariff reduction is 25 percent.

TDC executive director Arsenio Tanchuling says: "If the current Swiss formula with its proposed 25 percent coefficient is implemented, the average 23.5 percent bound tariff rate for all Nama products will be reduced to 12 percent. This will be a disaster for us."

He further argues that at least 10 percent of the Nama tariff items should be exempted from WTO bound rates. This will give us the option to decide what rates we deem best for those items. He adds: "Fisheries should get priority attention in this area. Compared to other sectors, it has a larger role in preserving the sustainability of natural resources and ecological balance."

Good news

Two days ago, leaders of four national umbrella organizations met with Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila to discuss the WTO negotiations. These were the Alyansa Agrikultura, the Fair Trade Alliance, the Federation of Philippine Industries and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Secretary Favila informed them that he would argue for a much higher Swiss formula coefficient, fight for at least 10 percent of the Nama tariff lines to remain unbound, and work for credit to be given to countries such as ours, which undertook "autonomous liberalization."

The private sector should unite and support Favila and the government on these issues. This will redound to the benefit not only of fisheries, but the Nama industry sectors as well.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

SM Investments raises capex budget

Mall expansion, property projects to account for bulk of '06 expenditure

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., THE FLAGSHIP company of retail tycoon Henry Sy Sr., is increasing its budget for working capital this year by P3 billion to P15 billion , SMIC chief financial officer Jose Sio said.

In a press conference held before the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, Sio said about P7 billion would be spent for mall expansion by SMIC's mall operator, SM Prime Holdings.

SM Prime is opening on May 21 its biggest mall, dubbed "Mall of Asia," along the Manila Bay area. It sits on a 386,000-square-meter lot and is estimated to cost P7 billion.

Mall of Asia will boast of the country's first Olympic-sized skating rink and the first Imax cinema that can seat 630 people.

Of the total budget, P2.5 billion will be spent for residential and tourism property development projects.

SMIC is currently undertaking the first phase of its 5,700-hectare resort development project in Nasugbu, Batangas called Hamilo Coast. Construction has also started on OneEcomCenter, its call center building, and the Maitrade Expo and Convention Center at the 60-hectare central business park near Mall of Asia.

SMIC is in talks with third parties to develop its hotel row project.

The company is also spending P3 billion for retail development, which will involve supermarket and hypermarket expansion. SMIC will build four new department stores, four supermarkets and about five new hypermarkets this year.

The balance of the total capital expenditure budget will be allocated for the projects of its financial and banking businesses.

SMIC is positioning itself as a key player in the growing real estate sector , leveraging its sizeable land bank and its expertise in mixed-use, residential , and retail property development.

In the meantime, SMIC said it had no immediate plans to hike its 10.8-percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

SMIC financial officer Jose Sio answers questions from the media in yesterday's press briefing. With him is Nestor Tan, president of Banco de Oro.
RUDY ESPERAS

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.21669	1.20997
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2517	1.2497

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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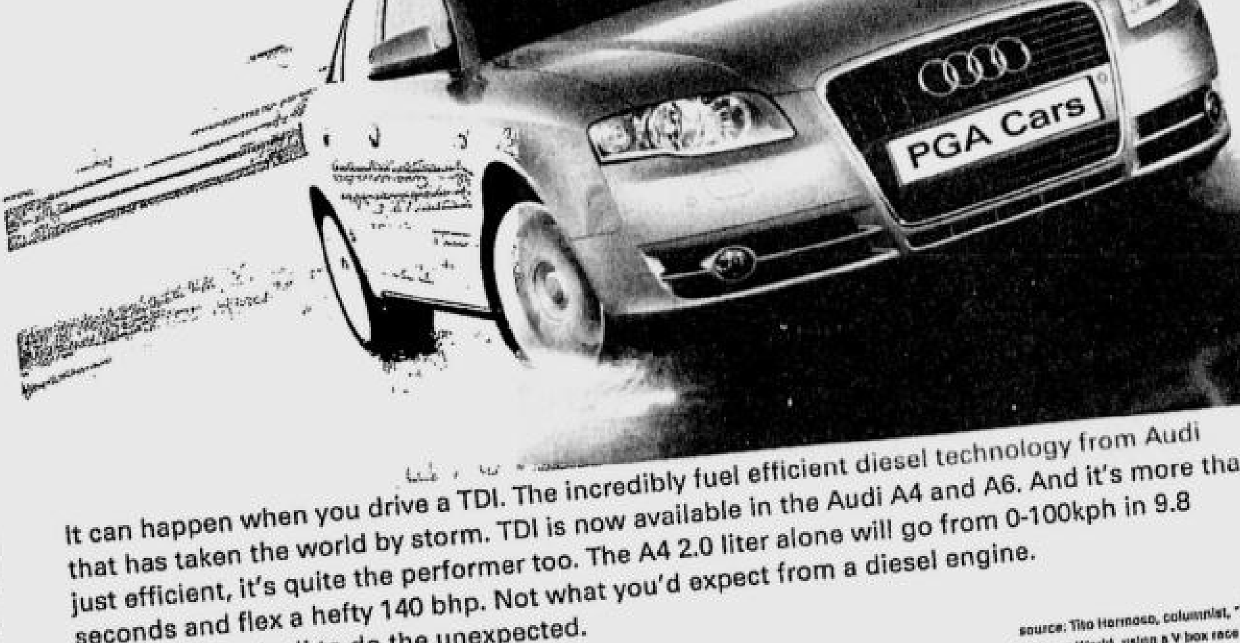

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source: Tito Hermoso, columnist, "Not so fast" Business World, using a V box race logic device

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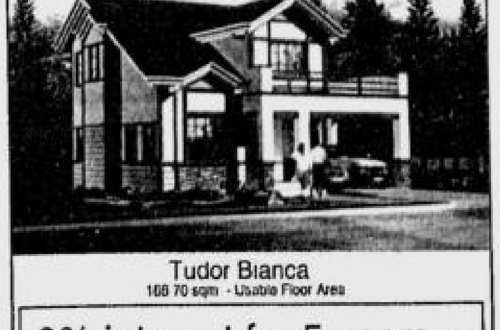

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TAIPAN SUPPORTS IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Taipan Lucio Tan (third from left) personally inspects the dams and spillways of two newly-constructed water reservoirs (inset) in Barangay Patpata, Balaoan, La Union. Built with support from Fortune Tobacco Corp. and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, the reservoirs have a combined holding capacity of 70,000 cubic meters of fresh water and capable of irrigating over 80 hectares of tobacco, corn and rice farm lands even during the long dry season. Holder of a doctorate degree in applied agriculture, Tan is a leading advocate in the construction and/or rehabilitation of water catchment basins in Northern Luzon as a way of helping tobacco and rice farmers increase their productivity. Also in photo is former agriculture secretary Salvador H. Escudero III (second from left), who advises Tan on irrigation and other agricultural matters.

Pre-need planholders hold general assembly

CALLING ALL PRE-NEED EDUCATION VICtims. There will be a general assembly of all pre-need plan holders of CAP, Pacific Plans, Platinum, TPG and Capitol on April 29, Saturday at the St. Paul Pasig Gym. Be there and know how your child can get the education he or she deserves. Registration starts at 7 a.m. For queries call Chit at 787-2570.

PPAI presents 'Handog Awit at Pag-Asa'

PAMPAMILYANG PAARALANG AGRIKULtura Inc (PPAI) will have its first benefit show on April 28, 8 p.m. entitled 'Handog Awit at Pag-Asa' at the PICC Plenary Hall featuring the UP Singing Ambassadors with special guests Jose Mari Chan and Agot Isidro. Tickets are available at the PICC c/o Vincent Pilien at tel. no. 551-6296 and the PPAI Secretariat at 892-8977 to 78.

Yupangco Summer Sale

TUNE IN TO THE SUMMER SWING-OUT Sale 2006, the country's biggest sale of musical instruments, pro audio, and audio-video products. Plunge into deeply discounted prices on the finest products from world-renowned brands. Take advantage of the stretched purchase power campaign and avail of one (1) year interest free offer on deferred purchase against your Bankard, BPI Express Credit or BPI-MasterCard, Diners, Equitable-Visa and Mastercard, HSBC, Metrobank Visa and Mastercard or Security Mastercard. Apply for an Easycredit installment plan at relaxed rates for 6-, 12-, 18- and 24-month plans. The models you want. From the brands you trust. At the lowest prices ever. April 21 to 30. At the Main Showroom of the Yupangco Building at Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, at all Perfect Pitch and Yamaha Music Stores, Music Spot outlets, and select music dealers nationwide. For details, call 899-9595 or e-mail at info@yupangco.com. When outside Metro Manila, call toll-free at 1-800-1-888-9595.

New Super Bowl opens

BECAUSE OF ITS EVER-GROWING MARket, Super Bowl of China continues to branch out and serve hearty, sumptuous treats to more communities in Metro Manila. Part of its expansion is the opening of its new store at the corner of UN Avenue and Roxas Boulevard. Beginning April 28, the 100-seater restaurant will open its doors to the public and serve delicious and freshly prepared Chinese specialties. So, rush to your favorite Super Bowl of China restaurant now, or dial their Super Delivery hotline at 737-8888 for traditional Chinese goodness in the comfort of your own homes.

PHA launches cookfest

ESPOUSING THE BENEFITS OF EATING healthy and taking heart in patronizing simple, but nutritious homemade foods, the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) has launched the first ever "Healthy Heart Cookfest".

The cookfest is a spin-off of the "Magpaka-Healthy Tayo sa Resto" component of the National Healthy Lifestyle Advocacy program, launched February 2002.

The contest is open to working moms, 25 to 60 years old. Participants should submit preferably a one-dish meal (viand) or a main dish and a vegetable dish for a family of six within a budget of P250. Recipes should use fresh ingredients only, and without prepared seasonings or mixes.

Recipes should be brief, but concise, describing the dishes and the cooking methods used; listing all ingredients according to order of use expressed in household measure, and indicating specifications (e.g. type, kind, variety, cut, market form, can size). Steps should be in paragraph form, according to sequence. Recipes should include the approximate size or number of servings.

All participants will be given certificates of participation and winners for each category will receive plaques, and the following cash prizes: first prize P30,000; 2nd P20,000; 3rd P10,000.

Official entries/registration forms/recipe entries and other requirements should be mailed/faxed/personally delivered to Dr. Ma. Teresa Abola, chair, Cookfest committee, President Tower Building, 81 Timog Avenue corner Sct Ybardoloza, Quezon City.

The cookfest is an ambitious undertaking of the PHA committee on advocacy chaired by Abola.

Deadline for submission of entry is on May 5.

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BSP: LGU bonds purchase complies with agri rule

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEMAND FOR BONDS ISSUED BY LOCAL government units is seen to rise as more banks tap these instruments as alternative compliance to the 25-percent mandatory lending to the agriculture and agrarian sectors.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which recently found certain foreign banks violating the agri-agra lending requirement, has reminded banks that the purchase of LGU bonds could be considered as compliance to the law.

A BSP official, however, said that there might not be enough supply of LGU bonds in the market considering the expected huge requirement of banks.

During a recent Monetary Board meeting, the BSP supervision and examination sector said LGU bonds were considered alternative compliance based on a circular issued in early 2000.

Many universal and commercial banks prefer alternative ways of complying with the agri-agra law, such as those provided by Republic Act No. 7721, than directly lending to the agriculture and agrarian sectors because of difficulties in scouting for viable borrowers.

RA 7721, which liberalized the entry of foreign banks, provides that development lending particularly to educational institutions and hospitals is a form of compliance with the agri-agra mandatory lending. Banks can also opt to lend to socialized housing projects or invest in Erap (Economic Recovery through Agricultural Productivity) bonds issued by state-owned National Development Co. during the Estrada regime.

Some banks find it easier to pay the fines imposed on violators given the higher risks of lending to the agri-agra sector, especially for foreign banks which have limited branch network and were focused on corporate and high-net worth individual accounts.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines has been calling for amendments to the agri-agra law, saying it was too difficult for commercial banks to comply with.

Banco de Oro officials still keen on merger with Equitable-PCIB

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK IS still keen on a merger with Equitable PCI Bank despite the controversies revolving around the bank's disclosure by its shareholders.

BDO president Nestor Tan told reporters during a briefing of SM Investments Corp. yesterday that BDO is willing to wait for signs of interest from the EPCI Bank board "for as long as it makes best business sense to wait."

"We think a merger will be in the best interest of both (banks')shareholders," Tan said.

Tan also said that BDO, one of the country's top five banks, will wait for indications from EPCI Bank's board first before making any move to amend its offer price.

Early this year, BDO proposed to merge with EPCI Bank, the country's third largest, describing it as a merger of equals to create the second largest bank in terms of resources.

BDO was recently embroiled in a controversy with Government Service Insurance System, one of the pension funds that hold a substantial stake in EPCI Bank, when GSIS named BDO as one of the buyers of its 12.5 percent stake in the bank at P92 to P95 a share.

BDO on Tuesday denied it made a formal offer to GSIS.

The disclosure was made after GSIS legal counsel Leighton Siazon revealed in a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission that BDO secretly tendered a formal offer to acquire GSIS' entire holdings in EPCIB at P92.

Reduced . . .

From page B1

would result in substantial revenue losses for the government to the tune of at least P29 billion.

Economic officials also opposed the lifting of VAT on oil because doing so would elicit a negative response from the financial markets and credit rating agencies.

Last Tuesday, the peso dropped to its eight-week low of 51.9:$1 following reports that some government officials were pushing for the lifting of the VAT on oil, a primary component of the government's fiscal reform agenda.

The tariff rate reduction, on the other hand, would not result in any foregone revenues.

This is because the lost revenues from the tariff reduction is offset by the higher duty collection resulting from the increase in oil prices.

Beltran explained that while revenue collection would decrease by P2.5 billion for every one percentage point cut in tariff, revenues also increase by P1 billion for every $1 increase in the price of Dubai crude.

According to government calculations, if the Dubai crude hits $61 a barrel, fiscal authorities may reduce oil tariff from 3 to 2 percent and expect no losses in revenue. The government may also cut the tariff to one percent if the crude price reaches $66 a barrel, and to zero percent if the oil price settles at $72 a barrel or more.

IC probes . . .

From page B1

Airlines started imposing the insurance surcharge after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, when many insurers stopped covering airlines' risks.

The International Air Transport Association agreed on the measure to impose the surcharges.

In a separate interview, Teves said that the passengers are being made to pay for something without them knowing how much they are insured for in the event of an accident.

When paying for any policy, the ones insured must know the terms of their insurance, he said.

"If you look at your ticket in the airplane, there's a price for your fare, and there's a price for your insurance and oil surcharge," Teves said. "Now, that's all paid for by the passenger. What's the purpose of the airlines in doing that?"

Instead of the IC, the Civil Aeronautics Board is the agency authorizing the airlines to impose the insurance surcharges. The implementation is reviewed every six months.

For flights within Luzon, there is an insurance surcharge of P300, while the surcharge for flights in Visayas and Mindanao are set at P420 and P600, respectively.

But under existing laws, only duly licensed insurance companies, brokers and agents can collect premiums from the public.

BIMP-Eaga . . .

From page B4

ty study would cover concerns like where and how to tap cheap sources of corn, getting duty-free feeds and helping private-sector participants to get financing.

The GTZ would likely provide 70 percent of the funding requirement of the feasibility study with the BIMP-Eaga governments shouldering the remaining 30 percent.

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BMW 118i Sport	Titanium Silver	2005	5,540 kms	P1,827,000
BMW 120i	Black Sapphire	2005	4,258 kms	P1,920,000
BMW 120i Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	7,737 kms	P1,880,000
BMW 320i	Arctic	2005	10,316 kms	P2,110,000
BMW 318i Exec.*	Orient Blue	2004	31,311 kms	P1,650,000
BMW 318i M Sport*	Imola Red	2005	17,774 kms	P1,800,000
BMW 323i*	Cosmos Black	1999	66,671 kms	P1,100,000
BMW 325i Exec.*	Titanium Silver	2003	18,769 kms	P1,750,000
BMW 325i Exec.*	Sienna Red	2004	30,000 kms	P1,850,000
BMW 325i Exec.*	Black Sapphire	2004	32,000 kms	P1,850,000
BMW 523i (E 39)	Dunkel Blue	1997	81,772 kms	P1,050,000
BMW X5 3.0i Exec.	Black Sapphire	2004	13,495 kms	P4,600,000
BMW X5 3.0d Exec.	Titanium Silver	2005	7,469 kms	P4,800,000
BMW 745Li	Titanium Silver	2004	12,060 kms	P6,500,000

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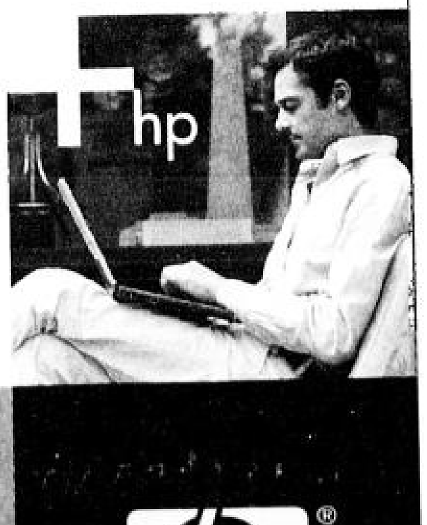

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ABS-CBN expects ₱121-M profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TELEVISION GIANT ABS-CBN BROADCASTING Corp. has returned to profit in the first quarter to P121 million from a loss of P114 million in the same quarter in 2005, ABS-CBN chair Eugenio L. Lopez III, quoting preliminary estimates, said during the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday.

Lopez said the company was able to post P300 million in savings by reducing its manpower from 1,800 last year to about 1,400 to date. Four hundred employees availed themselves of a "special separation package" last year.

Lopez said expenses were lower this year also because of the reduction in production costs.

The special separation package for retiring employees cost the company roughly P500 million.

"While we are not yet completely out of the woods, 2006 promises to be a turn-around year. Indeed, the seeds of recovery are in place, and we intend to nurture these seeds to reach full blossom and bear fruit," Lopez told stockholders.

Despite the better profit level, ABS-CBN's airtime revenue, based on preliminary estimates, was down by 5 percent this year, said Lopez. No absolute figures were provided.

"We are very proud of the results because we have done it in spite of the fact that our revenues are slightly below last year's level. This is an important situation, not only for people but for corporations as well. We have to learn to be profitable inspite of the fact that revenues are not growing. That is the reality we have to face today," Lopez told reporters after the annual meeting.

License fees generated from a commercial arrangement with US-based direct-to-home satellite system provider Direct TV also helped bring the company back in the black.

Last year, Direct TV paid ABS-CBN P1.6 billion in license fees for every subscriber that migrated to their network. Under the agreement, ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel was made exclusively available on Direct TV's digital broadcast satellite platform.

At home, ABS-CBN is rebuilding its strength in the primetime segment and closing the gap with rival GMA Network Inc. in Metro Manila.

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SECOND ISSUE: APRIL 30, 2006

at HOME

SMALL SPACES

Living Large in Small Spaces
All it takes is imagination to maximize the miniature
By Arnel Patawaran

My Secret Pocket Garden
Who says you can't have the luxury of having greenery if your home is short on space?
By Chelo Banal-Formoso, Lifestyle editor

Garden Designs for All Seasons
Lush landscapes, pocket gardens, gazebos, etc.

Condo Living
A pictorial on the interiors of a one-bedroom condominium unit (Shang Tower)
By Alex Vergara

Space-saving Appliances
Sourcing the must-haves if you want to live comfortably in cramped surroundings

Home Rescue Column
Ronald Puno

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.45	4.8	4.45	4.7	403,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	5,012,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	62	61	61	573,300
China Banking Corp.	785	785	785	785	1,600
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.4	13,470,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	72	71	72	155,300
International Exch. Bank	32.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	227,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	39	39	308,700
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	52	52	52	52	1,000
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34	33.5	34	12,700
Phil. Savings Bank	40	40	40	40	6,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.5	20,600
Security Bank Corp.	46.5	47	46.5	47	32,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	38	38.5	38	38.5	11,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Abacus Financial	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	420,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	29	29	29	29	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3340	3350	3340	3345	460
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.99	1	0.99	1	200,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	195	200	195	200	39,900
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2215	2215	2215	2215	1,350
Ivantage Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	14,224,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	63,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	43.5	43.5	310,200
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13	12.75	13	32,800
Manila Electric Co. B	19	19.25	18.75	19	529,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,600,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.3	5,979,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	140,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.24	197,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.5	21.5	20.75	20.75	100,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	370,900
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.15	812,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60.5	64	60	64	117,100
San Miguel Corp. B	81	81.5	80.5	81	236,600
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	100,000
Universal Robina Corp.	21.5	22.25	21.5	22	1,064,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	4,640,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.52	1.6	1.44	1.44	8,128,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	140,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	2,143,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	1	0.9	1	990,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	1,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	350	360	350	357.5	91,030
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	430,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.5	14,049,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	11,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	359,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,010,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	65,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,910,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.96	4,210,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.3	4.15	4.15	7,825,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.3	3,201,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	410,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.5	2,828,000
Medco Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	23,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.225	2,350,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	80,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	4,000,000
SM Investments Corp.	230	240	225	240	619,780
South China Resources Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.85	80,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	36,700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.12	5,170,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	5,415,800
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Belle Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	4,670,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	378,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.72	152,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	1,990,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.65	20,790,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	490,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	7,413,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.44	115,011,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	11,860,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	550,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	145,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.31	9,820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	140,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.8	7.8	1,543,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	950,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13	284,400
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	81,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.02	1.04	9,033,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	885	900	885	900	50,770
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3.05	11,620,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2025	2040	2025	2035	441,850
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.215	7,680,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	647,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.047	2,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	4,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	115,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	100,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	76,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12	12.25	12	12	2,090,500
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	70,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	710,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.56	5,470,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	56,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.94	1.94	139,000
Paxys Inc.	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	621,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	2.95	2.95	2.75	2.75	1,975,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.95	2.95	2.75	2.75	3,538,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	235,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.5	1,691,000
Benguet Corp. A	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	277,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.39	0.4	0.38	0.39	55,550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	35,120,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	563,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.03	265,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	95,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.1	3.95	3.95	2,681,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	15,638,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	28	28	365,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	290,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.43	680,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	6,840,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	117,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	86,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.91	0.91	0.88	0.88	660,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	8.1	8.4	7.7	7.7	888,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	11	10.5	11	17,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	11	10.5	11	17,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,600
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	1,002,900

CURRENCIES

April 27, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.803019	1.000000	51.8890
Japan	Yen	0.007001	0.008718	0.4524
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432827	1.784300	92.5855
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103549	0.128949	6.6910
Switzerland	Franc	0.632150	0.787216	40.8479
Canada	Dollar	0.712086	0.886761	46.0131
Singapore	Dollar	0.505521	0.629525	32.6654
Australia	Dollar	0.604092	0.752276	39.0348
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.130251	2.652801	137.6512
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.214121	0.266645	13.8359
Brunei	Dollar	0.503934	0.627549	32.5629
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000092	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.021326	0.026557	1.3780
UAE	Dirham	0.218645	0.272279	14.1283
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.245300	64.6174
Argentina	Peso	0.264151	0.328947	17.0687
Brazil	Real	0.378640	0.471520	24.4667
Denmark	Kroner	0.134033	0.166911	8.6608
India	Rupee	0.017829	0.022202	1.1520
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220609	0.274725	14.2552
Mexico	New Peso	0.072058	0.089734	4.6562
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507021	0.631393	32.7624
Norway	Kroner	0.128137	0.159569	8.2799
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013384	0.016667	0.8648
South Africa	Rand	0.129865	0.161721	8.3915
Korea	Won	0.000849	0.001057	0.0548
Sweden	Kroner	0.107245	0.133552	6.9299
Syria	Pound	0.015469	0.019264	0.9996
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025058	0.031205	1.6192
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000374	0.000466	0.0242

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"Take, O Lord, all my liberty."
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and the
Co-Chua Families
recommend to your prayers

Sister Miriam Co de la Ste. Trinité

Rafaela Co y Chua

who returned to the Father on the 26th day of April 2006
at the age of 81
in her
49th Year of Religious Profession
Funeral Mass
Saturday, 29 April 2006
9 o'clock in the morning
Main Chapel
Assumption, San Lorenzo
Interment will follow in the Sisters' Cemetery at Assumption Antipolo
Sr. Miriam's great concern was the Professional Formation of the Sisters.
In lieu of flowers, a contribution to the
Formation Fund of the Religious of the Assumption in her name
will be appreciated.

ORLANDO "Orly" B. VENUS

of Project 4, Quezon City and Bangued, Abra

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents Milio & Moring on April 24, 2006 at the age of 55.

His bereaved wife **Noida**; child **Ralph**; sister **Lorna**; brothers **Fr. Dante, Emilio, Nestor**; sister **Lorna**; uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, (Chapel 3 & 4), Marikina City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, April 30, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Marikina after the 8:00AM Mass.

DEATH NOTICE

RESTITUTO G. DAIT, SR.

of Tambuco, Goa, Camarines Sur

Died peacefully on April 25, 2006 at the age of 74.

His body lies in state at his residence in Tambuco, Goa, Camarines Sur. Interment will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

Rosalina "Cely" Pinga Santos

Peacefully joined our Lord
and her parents Pascual and Luisa on April 25, 2006.

Her brother **ARTURO**; aunts **FELICIDAD** and **CRESENCIANA**; uncle **BONIFACIO**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal happines in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the **ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS, Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.**

Interment will be on April 30, 2006 (Sunday), after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

"As we bid her goodbye her unconditional love
and unwavering faith will forever stay in our hearts"

Dra. Remedios Aguilar Santos
"Reming"

Passed away in the grace of our Lord
on April 25, 2006 at the age of 82.

The bereaved family, Husband **Dr. Benny Santos**
Children **Louie, Junior, Gaby, Chachu, Corcor** and **Detdet**.
Sons-in-law **Rico, Obi** and **Eric**
Daughters-in-law **Malou, Syl** and **Daisy**
Brother **Jun** and Sisters **Nena** and **Linda**
Grandchildren, Nephews, Nieces, Cousins and other relatives
request prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family home
in Malolos, Bulacan.

Final Mass on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.
at the Malolos Cathedral. Cremation rites follow.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Please be informed that PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS (PR's) issued to agents with the following number are hereby declared null and void effective April 1, 2006.

72461-72470B; 73121-73130B; 73161-73180B;73555-73570B; 74071-74080B; 74771-74780B;75231-75240B; 75265-75270B; 75271-75290B;76201-76210B; 76221-76230B; 76571-76580B; 76861-76870B; 77461-77470B; 77541-77550B;77701-77710B; 78331-78340B; 78631-78640B; 80111-80120B; 82011-82020B; 82311-82320B;82501-82530B; 82541-82550B; 82651-82660B; 82771-82780B; 83521-83530B; 83774-83780B;571-580B; 981-990B; 0023B; 1081-1090B; 1091-1100B; 1401-1410B; 2181-2190B; 2221-2230B; 2591-2600B; 2931-2940B; 4301-4310B; 4961-4980B;5361-5370B; 6351-6360B; 9551-9560B; 11291-11300B; 12191-12200B; 12301-12310B; 12451-12460B; 13016-13020B; 13281-13290B; 16471-16480B;16625B; 17421-17430B; 17521-17530B; 18735B; 19351-19360B; 19901-19910B; 21191-21200B;21301-21370B; 21465-21467B;21489-21490B;21791-21800B; 21901-21910B; 22726B; 23611-23620B; 24142B; 24144B; 24147B;24721-24730B; 0021-0030ILO; 0030CAB; 0031-0040CAB;0041-0050BAT; 0041-0050DAV;0119DAG and 0023SGO

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Department of Transportation and Communications
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

BMC Case No. 2006-025

ANGEL'S CABLE NETWORK
Applicant.
x-------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, **ANGEL'S CABLE NETWORK**, a single proprietorship registered with the Department of Trade and Industry, requests in the above entitled case for the issuance of a **Certificate of Authority to install, operate and maintain a Cable Television System (CATV) in the municipality of San Juan, Province of Batangas.**

Applicant further requests for a **Provincial Authority** pending final determination of the application.

This application will be heard by this Commission on 24 May 2006 at 9:30 a.m., at its Offices, National Telecommunications Commission, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City at which hearing applicant shall present its evidence.

At least (15) days prior to the date of hearing, applicant shall publish this Notice of Hearing once in one (1) Metro Manila edited daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and serve by registered mail or personal delivery copies of the application and the Notice of Hearing to all affected parties as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of hearing furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any affected party to file his opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of his right to be heard; the Commission will then proceed to hear and decide the application on its merits.

WITNESS the HON. RONALD OLIVAR SOLIS Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission this 16th day of March 2006.

(Sgd.) CARLOS K. VILLAFUERTE
Officer-in-Charge
Commission Secretariat

(PDI – April 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
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IN RE : APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN AIR CARRIER'S PERMIT (FACP) UNDER THE LIBERALIZED CHARTER PROGRAM) CAB CASE NO. 28084

HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED,)
Applicant.
x---x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for the issuance of Foreign Air Carrier's Permit under the Liberalized Charter Program. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **17 May 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this notice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit and CR Airways, Ltd., either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of this application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 April 2006
Pasay City, Philippines

MA. ELBEN SL. MORO
Hearing Officer

cc: **ATTY. ANTHONY T. ZAMORA**
Counsel for Applicant Hongkong Express Airways Ltd.
ZAMORA MIRAFLOR BRAVO & ASSOCIATES
Suite 707 Cityland 10 Tower I
Geronimo Street cor. Ayala Avenue North
Salcedo Village, Makati City

(PDI – April 28, May 5 & 12, 2006)

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Mindanao grew 5.2% in 2005, Medco says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MINDANAO POSTED POSITIVE GROWTH IN 2005, especially in agriculture, despite unfavorable weather conditions like the El Niño phenomenon.

According to the Mindanao Economic Development Council, the region's total output was expected to have grown within a range of 5.2 percent to 5.5 percent last year.

The estimate suggests that Mindanao's gross regional domestic product—which accounts for some 18 percent of the country's GDP—would have reached about P216 billion in 2005 from P205.6 billion the previous year.

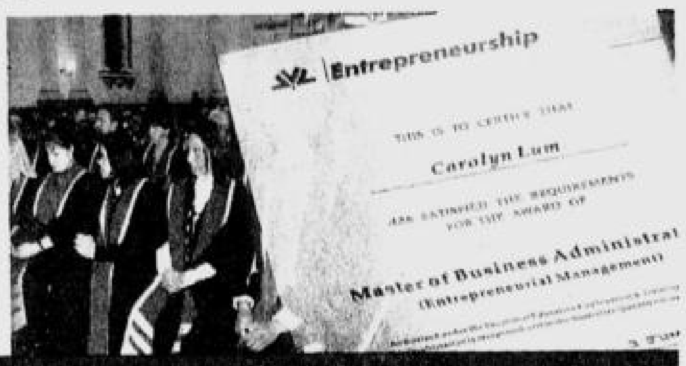
In the agricultural sector alone, production of all but one of 11 "championed" crops posted positive growth—some at two-digit rates.

Rice yield went up 2.32 percent, which was about five times the national growth rate of 0.44 percent, while corn yield shrank by 0.24 percent, which was much better than 4-percent decrease reported for the entire nation.

Top performers were Mindanao's producers of camote or sweet potato, which registered the highest growth rate at 13.62 percent.

The island attracted a total of P7.58 billion in committed investments, which are expected to create 4,054 new jobs. The amount is 19.5 percent lower than the P9.43 billion reported in 2004.

Medco said that the 35 projects committed in 2005 included ventures in infrastructure and utilities, mining, agriculture, construction, processed foods, chemicals, transportation equipment, tourism and information technology-enabled services.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  - ☐ Enable participants to apply the knowledge gained using the action-oriented learning process to their assignments.

Programme Design and Content

The programme comprises 12 subjects and is normally delivered during twelve (12) weekend workshops spread over twelve (12) months.

Each subject involves the presentation of a body of knowledge by faculty with background on management and entrepreneurial experience.

The learning approach uses lectures, video presentations, case studies, group discussions and directed reading.

Participants use the action-oriented learning approach to maximise their learning by applying theory to practice in the completion of their assignments.

EIA graduates will have the opportunity to be inducted as Fellows of a membership-based organisation associated with the Entrepreneurship Institute Australia.

☑ Commences in May
☑ Book for an Info Session
☑ Non-graduate admission is possible for those with sufficient work experience

For more information, please contact: Ms. Loren C. Simbulan
The International Academy of Management and Economics
Ayala Avenue Extension (turn left, off) 1061 Metropolitan Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City
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By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

EDGARDO G. VASQUEZ SAW how expensive putting up a house can be, so he came up with a modular construction system called "Vasbuilt."

Vasquez profited from his invention as Vasbuilt became the preferred mode of construction by many homeowners because it's cheaper and faster.

Sofronio H. Pasola Jr. invented the "Game of the Generals" and successfully put it out in the market.

The objective of the two-player game is to get the flag on the base line of the opposite playing board or to capture the other player's flag.

"Game of the Generals" became an instant hit among both children and adults.

Then there's Rolando C. dela Cruz who developed a way to remove warts, moles and other skin problems using extracts from local herbs, fruits and plants.

The effective alternative to cauterization has enabled Dela Cruz to open up a number of skin care clinics in the Philippines, and his formulation remains his well-guarded secret.

Vasquez, Pasola and Dela Cruz are some of the entrepreneurs who made sure they earn from their inventions by getting their intellectual property rights protected by the Intellectual Property Philippines.

Intellectual property is defined by author Kamil Idris as "ideas, inventions, technologies, artworks, music and literature, that are intangible when first created, but become valuable in tangible form as products."

The product was Vasbuilt for Vasquez, Games of the Generals for Pasola, and a line of creams and lotions for Dela Cruz.

IPO director general Adrian Cristobal Jr. believes other entrepreneurs can profit in the same way.

He says his office has thus made it its mission to get more inventors and entrepreneurs to follow their example, if only to protect their rights over the potential commercial success of their products.

CRISTOBAL

Cristobal cites many instances where inventors spent countless hours developing, researching and perfecting their product, only to see it copied and eventually marketed successfully by unscrupulous individuals.

They cannot do anything because they failed to file a patent or trademark protection, thus they have no proof that they indeed invented the product or came up with the unique design, innovation or brand.

Trademarks are defined as visible signs that distinguish goods, such as the Coca-Cola and San Miguel Beer marks on their cans and bottles.

The owner of a registered mark (trademark for goods and service marks for services) has the exclusive right over them and can prevent their unauthorized use.

The registered owner of the mark has the right to prevent others from using a similar or identical mark that would result in con-

GET/ B2-2

Communicate in a 'recession' or be a victim of 'depression'

Principle has not changed; it pays to advertise during hard times

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

THE FOLKSY STATEMENT—"OUT of sight, out of mind"—is the best argument among couples that being apart too long would be detrimental to a relationship. This is also a compelling argument for branded products to remain on the shelf—and be visible at all times—to solidify customer loyalty.

Being within sight—and within reach—are also time-tested marketing principles, which the uninitiated or the backslider can ignore at their own peril. And yet, this truism—to advertise, publicize or perish—is soon forgotten when hard times strike, and the knee jerk response of companies is to cut down on such essential functions as advertising and public relations.

In the late '70s and early '80s, there were already persuasive arguments in favor of advertising during a recession. In fact, in a section in my MRR (Management Research Report, the equivalent of a master's thesis) at the Asian Institute of Management, I argued in favor of advertising in the midst of a recession that was already felt then in the early '80s.

It was supposed to be a compelling logic for organizations to seize the communication initiative when hard times strike. I cited a study made by the Laboratory of Advertising Performance (LAP) of McGraw-Hill Research covering the period 1974-1975.

Advertising equals sales

In the study findings, McGraw-Hill vice president for research, Dr. David Forsyth, cited the "common experience of companies that continued advertising": In 1974-1975, their sales grew 15 percent higher than those who cut advertising. By 1978, companies that continued advertising had sales of 132 percent above 1973 sales levels. Those who trimmed advertising managed a mere 79 percent growth over 1973 levels.

These figures are, of course, dated. The latest figures from the same McGraw-Hill Research analyzed 600 companies in the US between 1980 and 1985. The results showed that business-to-business firms that "maintained or increased their advertising expenditures" during the 1981-1982 recession averaged "significantly higher sales growth" both during the recession and for the following three years.

And in 1985, the sales of companies that were "aggressive recession advertisers" were 256 percent higher than those which "did not keep up their advertising." This is a higher figure compared to the 132 percent advantage in 1978.

There is a more encouraging fact, established by a study of another research firm—Meldrum & Fewsmith. The findings are conclusive: Aggressive advertising did not only grow revenues; it even increased profits.

More recently, as pointed out by Dave Donelson, author of "Creative Selling: Boost Your B2B Sales," we should not be perturbed by post-Sept. 11 jitters. "The best way to combat paralysis is to get on with the business of living," he said. And the business of living includes the "for-profit businesses" as we know them.

Donelson continued, as he zeroed in on advertising: "Numerous studies, including one by the AAAA (Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies) of the recessions from 1948 to 1982, show that consumer spending actually grows from the quarter when the economy peaks to the quarter in which it bottoms." That's one to really think about.

Preference, awareness

A more comprehensive study is one conducted by the Cahners Research and the Strategic Planning Institute (PIMS). The institute stated: "As awareness increases, preference increases." The study, mind you, is not without basis. It was based on a survey made in July-September of 2001, covering 88,000 businesses in the US and based on the responses of 23,341 businesses. The survey sought to correlate preference levels to levels of awareness.

There is direct relationship (researchers call it "correlation") between awareness and customer preference. Susan Mulcahy, PIMS vice president for research, shared these key insights: As awareness increases from 25 percent to 35 percent, the preference increases from 10 percent to 15 percent. As awareness grows from 35 percent to 45 percent, the leap in preference is greater—from 15 percent to 23 percent.

And the largest jump occurs when awareness is 85 percent to 95 percent: preference rises to 56 percent to 71 percent. Such awareness can only be "driven" by the communication discipline of advertising and public relations.

In the same 2001 study, the marketing expenditures of the surveyed companies are channeled to the following: print advertising, 33 percent; sales/promotion materials, 22 percent; television, 11 percent; trade shows, 10 percent; and others include Web advertising, direct mail (print and e-mail), seminars, newsletters and billboards.

Principles the same

What is the message of these figures? The principle has not changed—whether in the '70s or the '80s—and, in a post 9/11 era. It pays to advertise during hard times or even a recession.

Where does the practice of public relations—or, more specifically, publicity—come in? At the turn of the century, companies have taken the wiser step of using a mix of advertising and public relations to increase sales, expand market share, and build a corporate brand.

A new discipline also emerged: "below the line advertising." It is obvious that the phrase was coined by advertising people—showing that the discipline with clout, is still advertising. That this influence may change through time is arguable.

So, how does one make of the audacious statement of Al Ries and Jack Trout, which is also the title of their book: "The Rise of PR and the Fall of Advertising"? Did the tandem sound the death knell of advertising? Far from it, they quickly add. They just underscored the increasing value of PR.

PR, Ries and Trout say, "builds a brand"; while advertising "maintains the brand."

Vivian Lines, Asia Group president of Hill & Knowlton, told a group of PR professionals recently: "Both PR and advertising build brands."

Advertising builds recall with its complete control of form and content; PR uses the power of third party endorsement. Actually, even this attempt at drawing the lines is still open to challenge.

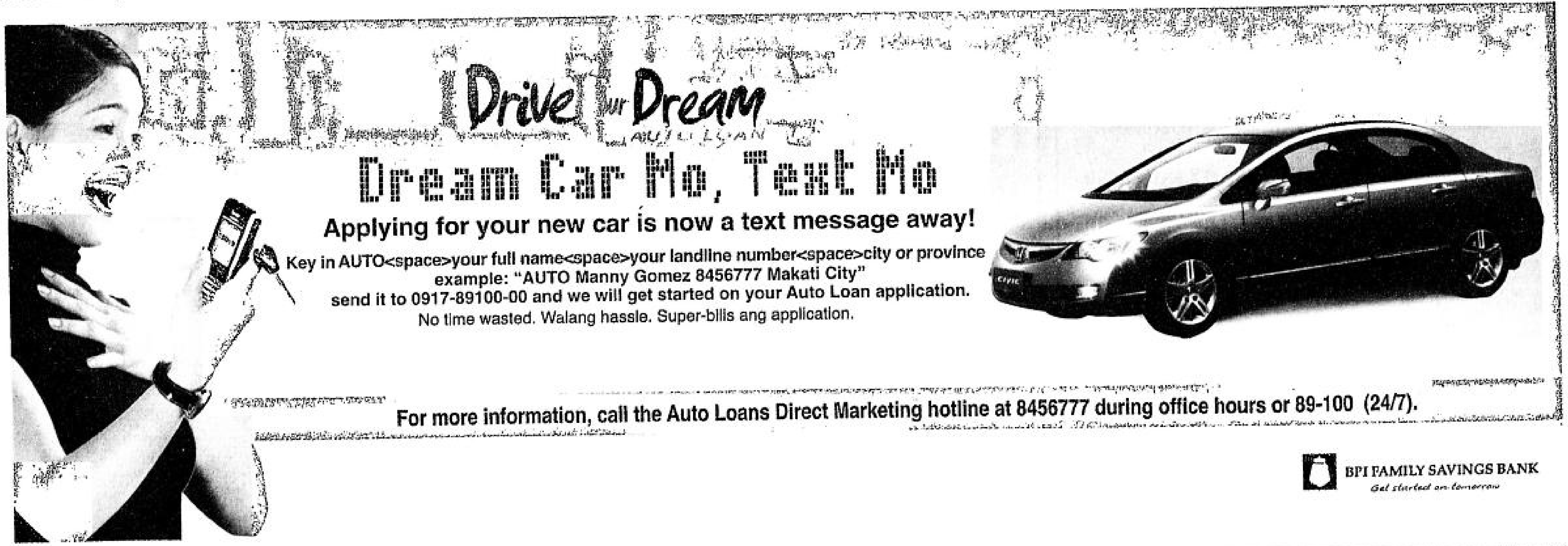
Dr. Atichart Suntharos, executive vice president, strategic planning of Lowe Lintas & Partners states: "Branding is even more critical in times of crisis. There's also a need to gain insight into consumer's changing values." It may be said that this agency man is biased, but his message is compelling.

And more hard to ignore is this advice: In good times, communicate to stand apart; in a recession, communicate to gain unbeatable advantage.

Speaking of a recession, a celebrated author once distinguished it from a depression: "In a recession, your neighbor loses his job; in a depression, you lose yours!"

It may be good to consider communicating—via advertising or public relations—or else, you will be overtaken by our own "recession" or "depression"!

(The author is head of Creative Point, a PR firm. Feedback at dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)



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For more information, call the Auto Loans Direct Marketing hotline at 8456777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7).
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

Far and Wide.
With 2GO Freight, you can transport your cargo to the most number of ports in the country.
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2GO

Why SMEs need their own website

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE enterprises (SMEs), which comprise almost 90 percent of the local businesses, should strengthen their use of information technology tools to command loyalty among their existing customers and further expand their client base.

Think IT and go places, says leading web development firm WebFocus Solutions Inc. and its sister company ServoBox Hosting Company.

The best way to do this is by installing one's own website. Barnaby Chong, CEO and President of WebFocus Solutions Inc., says this need not be an expensive investment.

"There are a lot of affordable web development and web hosting packages to choose from. That small amount of investment, which can range for as low as P6,500 a year," says Chong.

The website, he adds, is the cheapest form of advertising and marketing the business.

The Internet presence is also like having a 24/7 office. The website allows customers to access valuable information and post their inquiries about the company.

Looking at the intangible benefit, a website also boosts the image of a company. "If you have your own website, you're in touch with the changing times," Chong asserts.

The website, of course, should serve its purpose by being visible and accessible all the time. This responsibility goes to the web hosting service provider. WebFocus Solutions Inc., understands the importance of uninterrupted connectivity and visibility online, hence, it introduced ServoBox Hosting Company to provide the market with a reliable service provider.

Ryan Yu, Chief Technology Officer of ServoBox Hosting Company, says there are three basic factors to consider in choosing their web hosting service provider.

"The ideal web hosting provider should guarantee reliable uptime or uninterrupted internet connection, speed of access, and a round-the-clock technical support to the customer," says Yu.

Like its sister company Webfocus Solutions Inc., ServoBox Hosting Company extends affordable packages to its customers. "Our basic package is only P542 per month which is already inclusive of 20 email accounts and 500 MB with control panel among other perks," he added.

For more information about WebFocus Solutions Inc. and ServoBox Hosting Company, visit www.webfocus.ph and www.servobox.com.

Yahoo! makes special page for Pinoys

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NEXT TIME YOU LOG ON to the Internet, don't be surprised to find that the page www.yahoo.com.ph actually exists.

And with some very Filipino content at that.

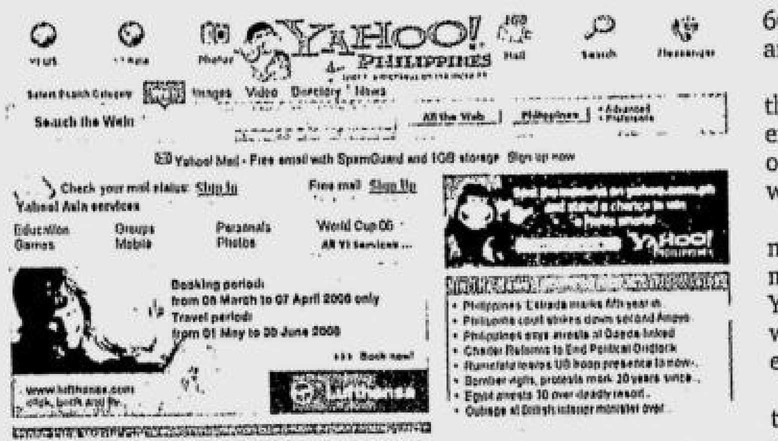
The Filipinos' penchant for keeping in touch whenever, wherever and however has prompted global Internet giant Yahoo! Inc. to set up a Yahoo! front page that is designed specially for Pinoys.

The new Yahoo! Philippines Website sports the same interface as all Yahoo! front pages all over the world and the worldwide Web, containing local news, communities and weather information.

As with all Yahoo! front pages, it gives users ready access to all the essential Yahoo! Content and services, including Search, Mail, News, Entertainment, Sports and Messenger.

According to Yahoo! Southeast Asia managing director Reza Benham, the launch of the Yahoo! Philippines front page is part of the company's strategy to "be more relevant with better localization."

He describes the Philippines as a hotbed for community and communications products, noting the Filipinos' love for mobile phones.


YAHOO! PHILIPPINES
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Check your mail status: Sign In
Free mail: Sign Up
Yahoo! Asia services
Education
Games
Groups
Mobile
Personals
Photos
World Cup 06
Booking period: from 06 March to 07 April 2006 only
Travel period: from 01 May to 30 June 2006
Book now!

FILIPINOS' penchant for keeping in touch prompted Internet giant Yahoo! Inc. to set up a Philippine front page.

While having an Internet penetration rate of only 18 percent, or just about 15 million users, as of 2005, he says the country has a huge potential in terms of growing its Internet user base due to the large number of overseas Filipino workers.

"OFWs who want to keep in close touch with their families are spurring Internet use. The younger generation are also driving Internet usage," he says.

Yahoo! Southeast Asia director of product management Larry Jordan adds that the launch of the Yahoo! Philippines front page is expected to spur the use of its new service, Yahoo! Go for Mobile, in the country.

The new service allows users to access their favorite Internet content and services via their mobile phones.

It not only allows users to access basic Yahoo! services, but also enables them to synch their phone book entries to a virtual database on the Web.

Jordan says the service is perfect for Filipinos, noting their close relationships with cellular phones.

Right now, the service can only work with higher-end Nokia handsets, including the N70, 6680, 6681, 6630, 7610, 6670 and 6600.

Talks are already underway for the service to be available to lower Nokia handset models and to other mobile phone brands as well.

Yahoo! Southeast Asia business development manager for mobile Victor Ocampo adds that Yahoo! Go for Mobile is in line with the company's "all connected life" thrust.

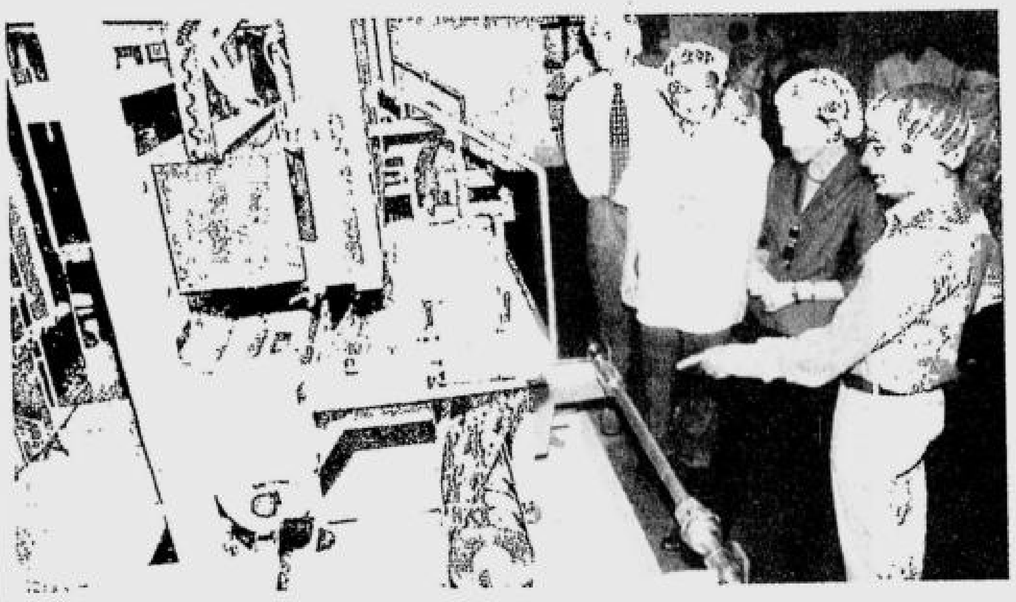
"We're trying to get ahead of the curve, especially in a region where there's a higher penetration of mobile phones than PCs. Filipinos already have a strong presence in Yahoo!, particularly in the Yahoo! Groups service," he says.

The Philippines is one of only four countries in the Southeast Asian region where Yahoo! Go for Mobile has been officially launched, he adds.

Jordan says this is because the Philippines is one important market for Yahoo!

Yahoo! Philippines joins the ranks of 12 other localized sites in the Asia-Pacific region, including Yahoo! Asia, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The company has 18 other localized sites in Europe and the Americas.



US ENVOY TOURS P&G PLANT IN LAGUNA. US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney (2nd from right) visits the multimillion-dollar, 20-hectare Procter & Gamble (P&G) plant at the Light Industry and Science Park in Cabuyao, Laguna. P&G marked its 70th year in the country with additional P1.5 billion worth of investments in the next three years. With Kenney are (from left) US Department of State 1st Secretary and Deputy Counsel Cleveland L. Charles; lawyer Ed Imperial, P&G general counsel and external relations director for Asean-Australasia-India; and P&G Cabuyao plant manager Samuel Garcia.

BCDA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTING SERVICES OF BCDA (REBIDDING)

1 Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) through its 2006 Budget intends to apply the sum of Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P3,500,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Public Relations Consulting Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

2 BCDA calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Public Relations Consulting Services. Issuance of the Eligibility Documents will be on 04-09 May 2006. Eligibility Documents may be purchased by the interested Bidders upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

3 Interested consultants must submit their LOIs not later than 5:00 pm on 09 May 2006 at the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Pre-eligibility conference will be held on 12 May 2006 at 9:00 a.m. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents 19 May 2006 at 9:00 am. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

4 The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall be at most three (3) eligible consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

   a) The Consultant must be a reputable public relations firm with at least five (5) years business operation
   b) The key personnel of the Consultant must have at least three (3) years experience in handling public relations and/or crisis management accounts
   c) The Consultant must have handled at least five (5) similar public relations and/or crisis management projects involving major clientele
   d) The Consultants should have handled at least two (2) government PR and/or crisis management accounts
   e) The Consultant shall be assessed based on the most favorable compliance with the criteria stated above

5. LOIs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on 04-09 May 2006 from 8:00am to 5:00 pm.

6 The Pre-bid conference for those who will qualify to participate in the bidding will be held on 13 June 2006, 9:00 a.m. Only those who will attend the pre-bid conference will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

7 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The BCDA shall evaluate bids using the Quality Based Evaluation (QBE) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

8. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday.

9 The contract shall be completed within one (1) year.

10 Bases Conversion and Development Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Bases Conversion and Development Authority

Ma. Aileen An. R. Zosa
Chairperson, BAC for Consultancy
2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center
Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634
Tel/Fax No. 8161015
Email address: arzosa@bcda.gov.ph
Website address: www.bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) Aileen An. R. Zosa
Chairperson
Bids and Award Committee for Consultancy

(PDI-April 21 & 28, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Proposed Construction of Women's Development Center
Location : BSP Camp – Cebu City Zoo Park, Brgy. Kalunasan, Cebu City
Brief Description : Building Construction, Slope Protection & Landscaping
Approved Budget For the Contract : P6,901,917.67
Contract Duration : 180 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	April 22-28, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	April 22-28, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	April 28, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	May 4, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	May 5, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	May 10, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	May 22, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI–April 22 & 28, 2006)

Al Ries on PR . . .

From page B2-4

The major cost of PR, both internally and externally, is the cost of the people involved.

Q: One of the perennial problems of an organization is whether to have an in-house public relations department or to hire an external person or to outsource to a PR agency. Which is the best solution?

Al Ries: It depends on the size of the company. A small company should hire a freelance PR person, probably on a part-time basis. A larger company should hire a PR person to do the job. A still larger company should also hire a PR agency to work with the PR person.

Q: What would you think are the key components of a good PR campaign?

Al Ries: You need to focus a PR campaign around a single idea or concept that you want to put into the minds of prospects. "Safety" for Volvo. "Driving" for BMW, etc. The components themselves are merely the tactical tools to accomplish the single idea strategy.

Al Ries, is one of the best known marketing strategists and authors in the world. He will be here in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day brand marketing conference. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

Offered for Sale on a per site and on an "as-is, where-is" basis, are 19 residential lots with site nos. 1-18 formerly belonging to the Peninsula Development Bank (PENBANK) and site no. 19 formerly belonging to Interland Chemicals, Inc. (ICI), as follows:

A. PENINSULA DEVELOPMENT BANK

Barangay Mapagong, Pagbilao, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
1*	T-201847	Lot-1117-A	3,582	P200.00	P716,400.00

**Site 1 is a residential lot with a net useable area of 3,582 sq.m. This lot is with informal settlers. The TCT is still registered in the name of Rosita Uy, the Certificate of Sale in favor of PMO was registered with the Lucena City Register of Deeds on 11 April 2002.*

Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon (Peninsula Homes Subdivision)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
2	T-390065	Lot-3	194	P 450.00	P 87,300.00
3	T-390068	Lot-6	142	600.00	85,200.00
4	T-390067	Lot-5	100	600.00	60,000.00
5	T-390066	Lot-4	96	600.00	57,600.00
6	T-390069	Lot-5	102	600.00	61,200.00
7	T-390088	Lot-4	82	450.00	36,900.00
8	T-390062	Lot-3	135	300.00	40,500.00
9	T-390063	Lot-5	64	350.00	22,400.00
10	T-390064	Lot-7	93	300.00	27,900.00

Barangay Bukal, Pagbilao, Quezon (Intertown Homes Subdivision)

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
11	T-390101	Lot-12, Blk. 9	162	P 750.00	P 121,500.00
12	T-390092	Lot-18, Blk. 10	162	750.00	121,500.00
13	T-390091	Lot-8, Blk. 11	231	650.00	150,150.00
14	T-390090	Lot-7, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
15	T-390100	Lot-8, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
16	T-390106	Lot-15, Blk. 8	150	600.00	90,000.00
17	T-390102	Lot-11, Blk. 9	150	650.00	97,500.00

Barangay Panaon, Unisan, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
18**	T-390096	Lot-1-B-2	830	P200.00	P166,000.00

***Site 18 is with informal settlers.*

B. INTERLAND CHEMICALS, INC.

Barangay Balubad, Atimonan, Quezon

Site No.	TCT No.	Lot No.	Area (sq.m.)	Price/sq.m.	Indicative Price
19	T-297151	Parcel 7, Lot-3	45,040***	P130.00	P5,855,200.00

****Net useable area*

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of offerors on 17 May 2006, at 3:00 p.m., 6th Floor, PMO Conference Room, NDMC Building, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for duly authenticated copies of the Offer For Sale Documents for a nominal fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office, 5th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

For more information, please call Mr. John DF. Baldemor of the PMO Marketing Department at 817-6331 or 817-8762.

(PDI--April 27, 28 & 29, 2006)

Get your . . .

From page B2-1

fusion among consumers.

This brings to mind trademark battles in court between San Miguel Corp. and Asia Brewery Inc. over the shape and look of the beer bottles, and also between McDonald's and local food chain Big Mak over the use of the word "Big Mak."

The Supreme Court declared that the use of "Big Mak" on hamburgers infringed on McDonald's "Big Mac" trademark, forcing the Lucena-based chain to drop the "Big Mak" name from its hamburger lineup, wrappers and packaging.

Patents, on the other hand, refer to rights over inventions such as Vasbuilt or new agricultural machines, innovations or industrial designs, such as distinctive furniture or handicraft designs.

That the firms would go to the extent of suing for protection of their trademarks and patents signify the importance of intellectual property rights to their business.

Yet, Cristobal says so few inventors or entrepreneurs file for a patent or trademark protection because not many see the importance or value in it.

Some entrepreneurs cite however that sometimes the reason for non-filing is due to the expense the filing for a trademark will entail. Often a firm needs to hire a lawyer to take care of the application and the requirements for this.

Cristobal argues that IP development can be a vital force for national development as protection can encourage more inventors to come out in the mainstream to benefit the public.

At the same time, inventors will be encouraged to invest in the further development of their inventions since they know that nobody else will copy or profit from their products.

Cristobal also says that once the protection is in place, many financial institutions and big market players will be more comfortable about lending their money for expansion or even for equity investments.

The IPO, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, is doing what it can to make it easier for inventors and entrepreneurs to get intellectual property rights protection by streamlining the application process.

The IPO has also embarked on a campaign to encourage individuals and companies across the country to get protection.

The campaign is yielding results.

In 1997, almost 70 percent of the applications for trademarks were filed by foreign companies wanting to protect their intellectual property rights as they expand operations in the Philippines.

As of October last year, 60 percent of the applications for trademarks were filed by Filipino companies.

(For more information on IP applications, call 752-5450)

Training coffee farmers on modern methods

THE NEDF has been offering free short courses to new and veteran coffee farmers.

A TOTAL OF 221 AGRICULTURAL students and farmers have graduated from Nescafe's coffee specialists program at its experimental farm in Tagum City, Davao Del Norte, since June last year.

The 16-hectare Nestle Experimental and Demonstration Farm (NEDF) has been offering free short courses to new and veteran coffee farmers, and agricultural students looking for on-the-job training venues since 1994. It has already produced over 10,000 coffee technicians.

There is also Nescafe's three-day coffee production technology training, which is open to anyone willing to go to Tagum to become coffee technicians. It covers all of the coffee farming stages: from nursery management and harvesting to marketing. There is the more extensive two-week training program which coffee farmers from as far as Cagayan Valley in Luzon avail.

"The main purpose of this farm is training," Zenon Alenton, one of NEDF's resident agronomists, reveals. "All our trainings are free of charge."

NEDF's on-the-job program for students covers the same curriculum but scheduled during weekends. At the end of two months, the students will be capable of planting and running their own coffee plantation. The demo farm has trained students from agricultural schools across the country.

The NEDF team, including Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI) head for agricultural services Joel Lumagbas, is also available for on-site training and consultation by request. Through regular visits, the Nestle trainers reinforce among farmers the importance of good plantation management, which includes weeding, fertilizing, application of compost or organic fertilizer and pruning, as well as proper harvesting and post-harvest processing methods.

In 2003, Nescafe introduced the Coffee-Based Sustainable Farming System that encourages farmers to plant other crops in-between rows of coffee trees, to provide them with additional or alternative income on a regular basis.

In Misamis Occidental and Batangas, for instance, NPI-Agricultural Services Department trainers help put up coffee farms with companion cash crops such as lemon grass, bananas, sweet potatoes and peanuts. In Romblon, they are starting a coffee farm with jathropa, a principal source of jathropa oil, a major component of a more economical variety of bio-diesel. This coffee companion crop has a wide range of uses in cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food manufacturing industry.

"Majority of our farmers plant coffee without formal training," says Alenton. "We have to change their mindset so they will do away with obsolete practices."

Alenton says that most farmers cut their coffee trees and plant other crop when coffee prices are low. With this farming system farmers will have other sources of income.

GlobeQUEST WiZ Brings Superior Wireless Internet Connectivity to Mobile Professionals

As more and more people bring their work outside the office, demand for wireless Internet connectivity also begin to grow rapidly. Such need has already spawned the creation of public access "hotspots" that provide Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) access in locations as diverse as restaurants, coffee shops, airports, hotels, schools, offices, convention centers and malls.

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, thus, takes center stage in supplying the best network solution that will make strategic GlobeQUEST Wireless Internet Zones as workstations for mobile professionals, sales people and other field workers.

So far, GlobeQUEST has already partnered with a number of popular establishments nationwide, providing them with superior managed end-to-end solutions to ensure better flexibility, reliability and accessibility of their Wi-Fi service.

GlobeQUEST WiZ is a new and exciting wireless broadband Internet service using the IEEE 802.11b or Wi-Fi wireless networking standard to provide secure and reliable wireless connectivity to anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled laptop or PDA (personal digital assistant), and thus, allow them to access their email, play online games, surf the Net or even make a call.

A Wi-Fi network can be used to connect computers to each other, to the Internet, and even to wired networks which use 802.3 dubbed as the Ethernet. Wi-Fi networks operate in the unlicensed 2.4GHz and 5GHz radio bands with an 11Mbps (802.11b) or 54Mbps (802.11g) data rate or with products that contain both bands (dual band) so they can provide similar performance equivalent to the basic 10BaseT wired Ethernet networks.

GlobeQUEST's vision is to provide Wi-Fi facilities to major key establishments where people converge for business, as well as promote Wi-Fi as a strategic tool for education, local government projects, product advertisements, and foreign ventures, among others. Given this, GlobeQUEST has expanded to provide coverage not only in Metro Manila but to 13 provinces in the country, namely Cebu, Davao, Bohol, Bacolod, Tacloban, Pampanga, General Santos, Baguio, Olongapo, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, and Ormoc, making true its ommitment to transform the Philippines into a Wi-Fi territory.

GlobeQUEST has also pioneered the "HotZones" which provide WiZ Wi-Fi access to clusters of establishments within the identified zone/sector such as industrial parks, commercial centers, residential subdivisions, mixed-use complex, business districts, and other business communities that require flexibility and productivity. GlobeQUEST WiZ HotZones complement a partnership with the GlobeQUEST WiZ HotSpots with certification from both the establishment and the property management.

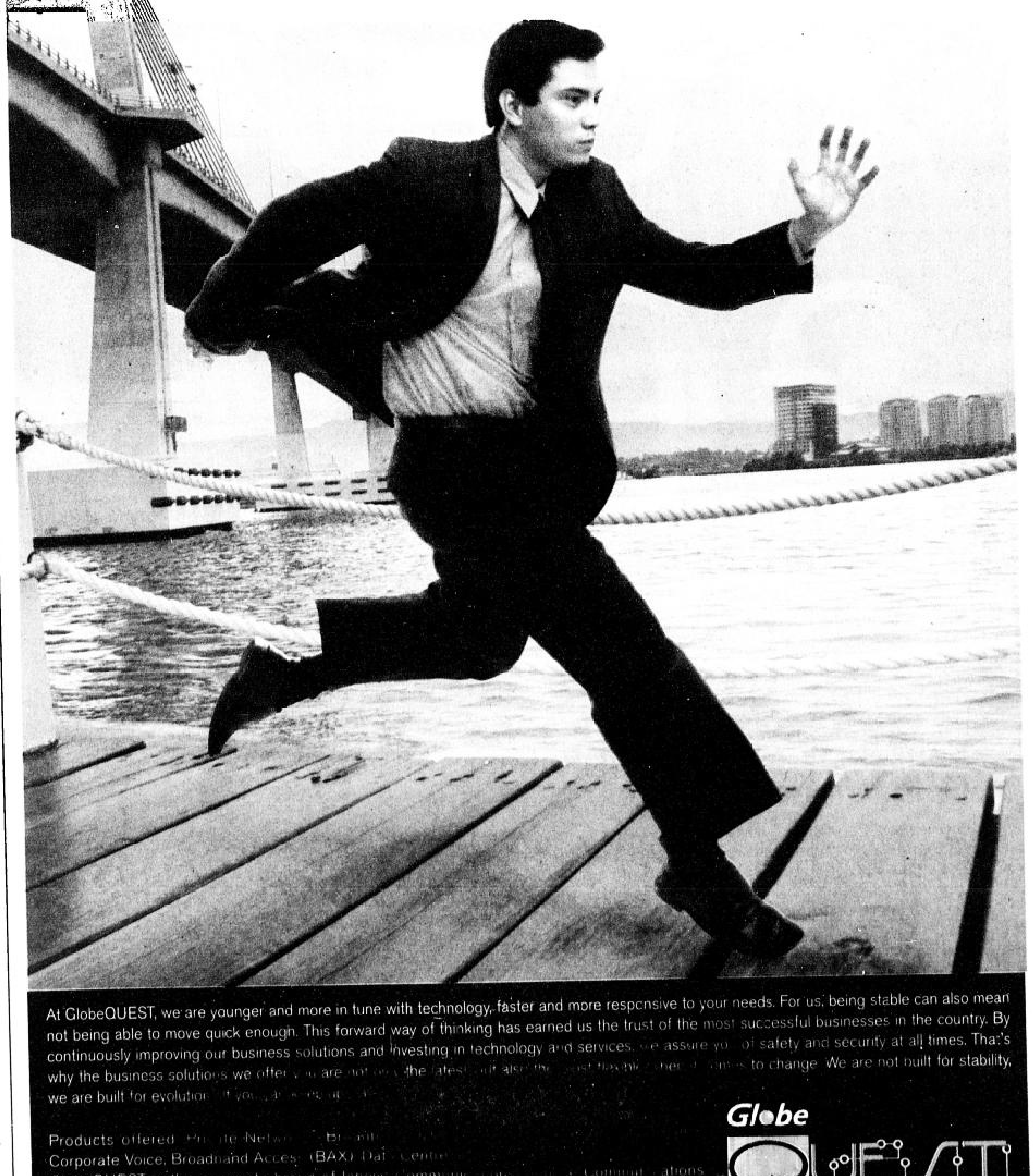
GlobeQUEST WiZ can be experienced through Prepaid Plans in P100 (50 minutes), P400 (200 minutes) and P1,000 (500 minutes) denominations; or through GlobeQUEST's Universal Access Service, ranging from the lowest monthly plan of P350 for 10 hours to as high as P2,500 for unlimited use.

Likewise, by texting WIZ ON to 2333, Globe Handyphone postpaid subscribers can get their user IDs and password through SMS which can be used to log-in at any WIZ hotzone. WIZ usages will be charged to the subscriber's monthly bill at PhP2.00/minute. Also, GlobeQUEST has partnered with myAyala.com thereby allowing customers to purchase a GlobeQUEST WiZ account online through a credit card.

At the same time, GlobeQUEST WiZ allows Wi-Fi Roaming-in for customers of Pacific Internet, Worldpass, BOINGO Wireless, iPass, and Deutsche Telekom to access wireless broadband Internet

For more information log on to www.wiz.globequest.com.ph or call the GlobeQUEST Hotline 79-QUEST. ADVT

TECHNOLOGY MOVES AT LIGHTNING SPEED. ONLY THE DYNAMIC CAN KEEP UP.



At GlobeQUEST, we are younger and more in tune with technology, faster and more responsive to your needs. For us, being stable can also mean not being able to move quick enough. This forward way of thinking has earned us the trust of the most successful businesses in the country. By continuously improving our business solutions and investing in technology and services, we assure you of safety and security at all times. That's why the business solutions we offer you are not only the latest but also the most flexible when it comes to change. We are not built for stability, we are built for evolution. If you [illegible]

Products offered: Private Network, Br[illegible]
Corporate Voice, Broadband Access (BAX), Data Center [illegible]
GlobeQUEST is the corporate brand of Innove Communications [illegible] Communications
is a 100% subsidiary of Globe Telecom.
Contact Us: 79-QUEST (79-78378), marketing@globequest.com.ph, www.globequest.com.ph

Globe QUEST
The new pace of business

Training coffee farmers on modern methods

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The NEDF team, including Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI) head for agricultural services Joel Lumagbas, is also available for on-site training and consultation by request. Through regular visits, the Nestle trainers reinforce among farmers the importance of good plantation management, which includes weeding, fertilizing, application of compost or organic fertilizer and pruning, as well as proper harvesting and post-harvest processing methods.

In 2003, Nescafe introduced the Coffee-Based Sustainable Farming System that encourages farmers to plant other crops in-between rows of coffee trees, to provide them with additional or alternative income on a regular basis.

In Misamis Occidental and Batangas, for instance, NPI-Agricultural Services Department trainers help put up coffee farms with companion cash crops such as lemon grass, bananas, sweet potatoes and peanuts. In Romblon, they are starting a coffee farm with jathropa, a principal source of jathropa oil, a major component of a more economical variety of bio-diesel. This coffee companion crop has a wide range of uses in cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food manufacturing industry.

"Majority of our farmers plant coffee without formal training," says Alenton. "We have to change their mindset so they will do away with obsolete practices."

Alenton says that most farmers cut their coffee trees and plant other crop when coffee prices are low. With this farming system farmers will have other sources of income.

GlobeQUEST WiZ Brings Superior Wireless Internet Connectivity to Mobile Professionals

As more and more people bring their work outside the office, demand for wireless Internet connectivity also begin to grow rapidly. Such need has already spawned the creation of public access "hotspots" that provide Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) access in locations as diverse as restaurants, coffee shops, airports, hotels, schools, offices, convention centers and malls.

GlobeQUEST, the corporate business group of Innove Communications, thus, takes center stage in supplying the best network solution that will make strategic GlobeQUEST Wireless Internet Zones as workstations for mobile professionals, sales people and other field workers.

So far, GlobeQUEST has already partnered with a number of popular establishments nationwide, providing them with superior managed end-to-end solutions to ensure better flexibility, reliability and accessibility of their Wi-Fi service.

GlobeQUEST WiZ is a new and exciting wireless broadband Internet service using the IEEE 802.11b or Wi-Fi wireless networking standard to provide secure and reliable wireless connectivity to anyone with a Wi-Fi enabled laptop or PDA (personal digital assistant), and thus, allow them to access their email, play online games, surf the Net or even make a call.

A Wi-Fi network can be used to connect computers to each other, to the Internet, and even to wired networks which use 802.3 dubbed as the Ethernet. Wi-Fi networks operate in the unlicensed 2.4GHz and 5GHz radio bands with an 11Mbps (802.11b) or 54Mbps (802.11g) data rate or with products that contain both bands (dual band) so they can provide similar performance equivalent to the basic 10BaseT wired Ethernet networks.

GlobeQUEST's vision is to provide Wi-Fi facilities to major key establishments where people converge for business, as well as promote Wi-Fi as a strategic tool for education, local government projects, product advertisements, and foreign ventures, among others. Given this, GlobeQUEST has expanded to provide coverage not only in Metro Manila but to 13 provinces in the country, namely Cebu, Davao, Bohol, Bacolod, Tacloban, Pampanga, General Santos, Baguio, Olongapo, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, and Ormoc, making true its ommitment to transform the Philippines into a Wi-Fi territory.

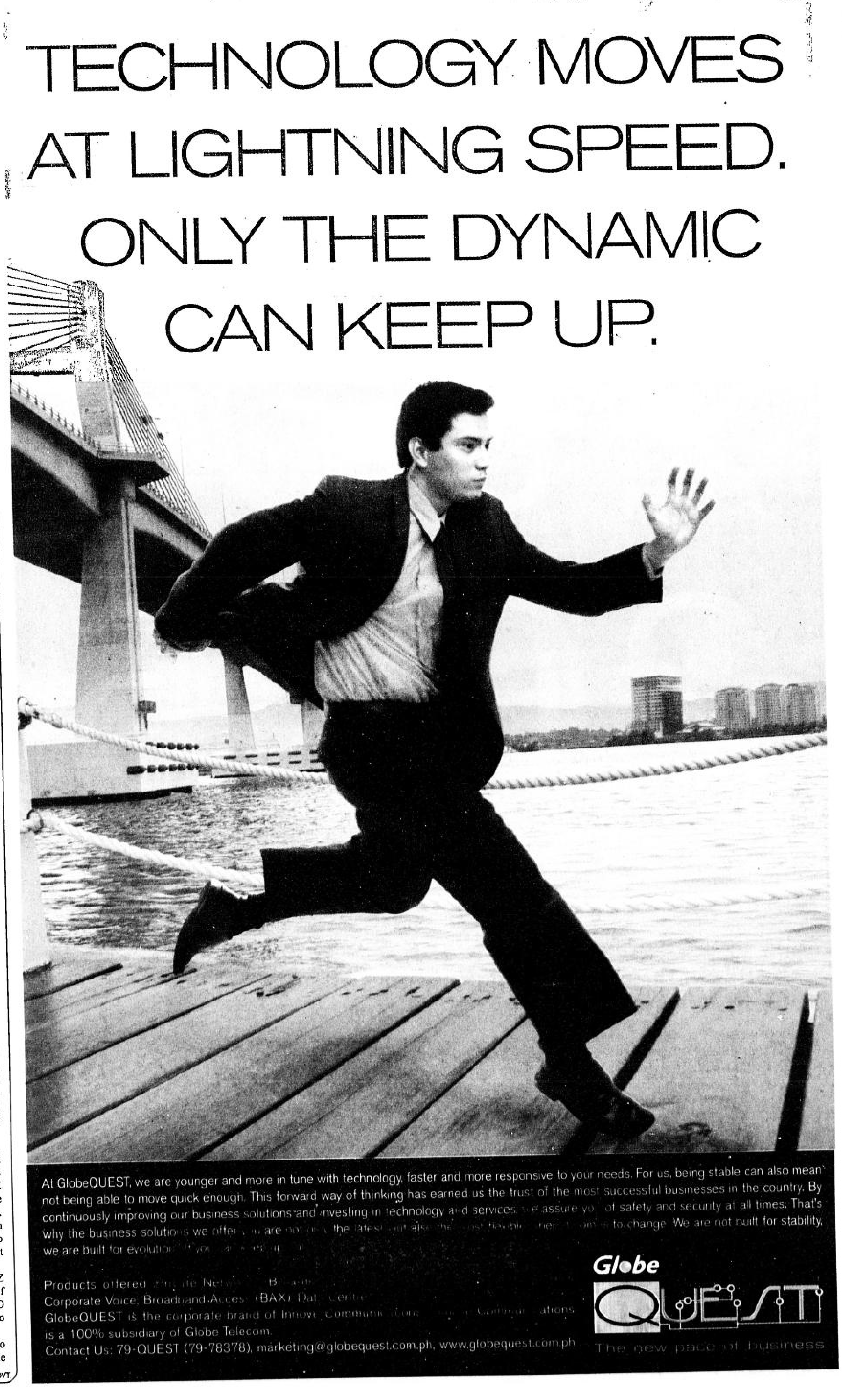
GlobeQUEST has also pioneered the "HotZones" which provide WiZ Wi-Fi access to clusters of establishments within the identified zone/sector such as industrial parks, commercial centers, residential subdivisions, mixed-use complex, business districts, and other business communities that require flexibility and productivity. GlobeQUEST WiZ HotZones complement a partnership with the GlobeQUEST WiZ HotSpots with certification from both the establishment and the property management.

GlobeQUEST WiZ can be experienced through Prepaid Plans in P100 (50 minutes), P400 (200 minutes) and P1,000 (500 minutes) denominations; or through GlobeQUEST's Universal Access Service, ranging from the lowest monthly plan of P350 for 10 hours to as high as P2,500 for unlimited use.

Likewise, by texting WIZ ON to 2333, Globe Handyphone postpaid subscribers can get their user IDs and password through SMS which can be used to log-in at any WIZ hotzone. WIZ usages will be charged to the subscriber's monthly bill at PhP2.00/minute. Also, GlobeQUEST has partnered with myAyala.com thereby allowing customers to purchase a GlobeQUEST WiZ account online through a credit card.

At the same time, GlobeQUEST WiZ allows Wi-Fi Roaming-in for customers of Pacific Internet, Worldpass, BOINGO Wireless, iPass, and Deutsche Telekom to access wireless broadband Internet

For more information log on to www.wiz.globequest.com.ph or call the GlobeQUEST Hotline 79-QUEST. ADVT.



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Al Ries on PR and Advertising

HERE'S MORE BRAND AND MARKETING advice from our guest columnist, best-selling marketing author and brand strategist, Al Ries.

Q: How can a public relations company promote itself and the discipline of PR to potential clients?

Al Ries: Public relations agencies have the same problem as advertising itself. Advertising has little credibility with consumers because it's widely believed to be "self-serving." Why should a consumer believe what you say about yourself?

Why should a client believe what a public relations agency says about itself or the public relations functions? In essence, they are failing into the advertising trap. They lack credibility when they talk about the power of PR.

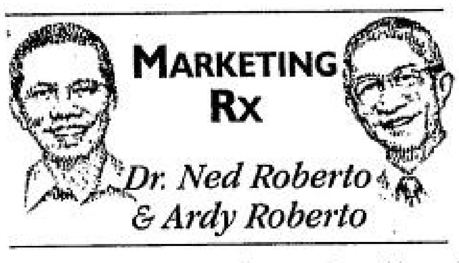
PR agencies need to be much more involved in developing the strategy of the brand.

The public relations industry needs public relations. They need others to say good things about PR, primarily the media like The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Fortune, Advertising Age, etc.

Actually that's why many public relations agencies have asked us to speak to their clients and prospects. We are perceived as marketing strategists, not salespeople for the PR function. We have some credibility that public relations agencies do not.

Q: What can PR firms do to help improve the image of PR and increase its importance in corporate boardrooms?

Al Ries: The public relations industry needs a PR program to promote public relations.



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

PR agencies have to focus on brand launching, not brand maintenance. When you claim to be able to do everything well, it undermines your credibility. By "giving" the brand maintenance to advertising, PR agencies will greatly increase their stature with corporate management. You can't be all things to all people.

The PR industry needs a strong editorial voice. Advertising Age magazine is that voice for the advertising industry, but PR Week is a weak voice for the public relations industry. Never underestimate the importance of having a strong trade magazine to enhance the stature of an industry. Medical doctors have them, dentists have them, but PR people do not.

In general, they leave strategy to advertising agencies. This is a big mistake. They need to take charge of the process.

Of course, they can't do that until they learn more about what makes a good marketing strategy. The PR industry needs to have seminars and workshops on strategy and forget about the mundane tasks of how to write a press release or conduct a press conference. Naturally there are a lot more things that can be done. This is just a starter list.

Q: Why does it have to be PR first and then advertising?

Al Ries: Many advertising agencies believe that since most products are similar, it's the advertising that needs to be different. That's why they want to launch new brands with advertising and then use PR to make the advertising famous.

In our opinion, products might be similar, but their perceptions are not. Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola might taste pretty much the same, but the brands occupy different positions in the prospect's mind. The best advertising works against ideas and concepts that already exist in the mind. (This is the core of our positioning concept.)

Since advertising lacks credibility, a company needs PR first to establish the brand's credibility and then advertising second to reinforce and reaffirm that credibility.

Q: You said that advertising can be effective if the messaging is right. What is the right message?

Al Ries: The right message is an idea or concept that already exists in the mind, especially if that idea contains a motivating reason to buy the brand.

In the US, most people think that Coca-Cola is "the real thing." By extension, everything else is an imitation of the real thing. This is the right message for Coca-Cola, yet the company hasn't used this message for 30 years.

Q: If public relations is eventually able to play a more major role in marketing—do you think over time, there will be a backlash by consumers who may become apathetic and suspicious of PR messages because they come across as pseudo-news and no longer are identified as true news stories?

Al Ries: There might be, but we doubt it. Actually consumers are very interested in new products and services, but they doubt the ability of advertising to tell them the straight story. Look at the success of a magazine called "Lucky" which focuses on new products consumers can buy.

Also, Consumer Reports which gives consumers the straight story about products they can buy. Their website is one of the few websites that sells information and makes money. In other words, people want to read about products they can buy as long as they perceive the messages to be unbiased.

Q: What are the main differences between PR and advertising?

Al Ries: The main difference is "credibility." What you say about yourself, an advertisement, has little credibility with consumers. What has credibility is what others say about you and your products. That is, the publicity created in the media by your company.

The other major difference is "control." You have 100 percent control of the message with advertising. You also have 100 percent control of the target audience. This is the major advantage of advertising.

With PR or publicity, you have little control of the message and little control of who the message is directed at (the target audience.) In spite of the lack of control, we believe that PR is a superior way to reach consumers with a new brand because of the importance of credibility.

Q: R.O.I. is mentioned in your book. What kind of expectations are there for R.O.I. and PR?

Al Ries: PR is the most difficult thing to measure. We are strongly opposed to traditional publicity measuring tools (ad equivalency, for example.) Rather we feel that a company should only measure two things. How much did we spend on the PR program in total? And how much have we accomplished (sales, market share, brand perception, etc.)?

Q: What is your opinion on alternative advertising (product placement in film/TV, moving subway ads, elevator news, and celebrity endorsements)? Cost efficient, effective?

Al Ries: We believe that most alternative advertising suffers from the same problem that traditional advertising does. It suffers from the lack of credibility. We believe the story here is that advertisers have lost much of their faith in the power of advertising so they are exploring many different alternatives. In other words, the search for alternatives demonstrates the lack of faith in the power of traditional advertising.

Q: Some people suggest that publicity is free. Do you agree? If not, what are the major costs of a successful public relations program?

Al Ries: Nothing in life is free. Good publicity requires a lot of time on the part of internal people and sometimes the hiring of a PR firm.

AL RIES B2-2

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Death, fashion and the real world

The fashion industry grieves over the brutal death of designer Mel Vergel de Dios

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE FASHION WORLD IS grieving the sudden and brutal death of Mel Vergel de Dios, who was only 36.

Mel was found early morning last April 20 in his car, dead, with his feet and hands bound and his head stuffed in a plastic bag. His good friends, designers Jojie Lloren and Dennis Lustico, among others, still find it hard to believe that he has gone, and in a brutal fashion at that.

Men's fashion designer Tonichi Nocom says that the night before, Mel had conducted a lecture-meeting of designers about job policies in the industry.

I myself wasn't close to Mel, but from designer-friends, I learned that Mel was a mild-mannered, affable man, well-loved by friends and colleagues. To the best of their knowledge, he had no enemies. Death took him at the peak of his career.

Mel's death brings to mind the brutal death of another famous designer, Caloy Badidoy, 15 years ago. Like Mel, Caloy was popular in the fashion circle, a fun and funny guy who was mild-mannered and with a fast-growing clientele at the SM stores.

Like Mel, Caloy met a violent death; he was found stabbed and hogtied in the room of his M. H. del Pilar apartment. When his house help discovered the body, she ran screaming for help to the nearby apartment of Inno Sotto and Richard Tann. Like a true friend, Richard called for help and tried to control the situation before the police arrived.

Even with the full investigation ordered by then NBI head Alfredo Lim, Caloy's gruesome murder remains unsolved, and to this day, his colleagues like Inno, Cesar Gaupo and Auggie Cordero feel a stab of sadness when they remember how he had gone—in the dead of night, with no witness to his violent death.

No two worlds could be more different from each other than fashion and violence—the former is of beauty and glamour, the latter of ugliness and barbarity. Yet once in a while, they mix and the result is tragedy and shock, a jarring experience. You are left scared of the night, the darkness and the evil elements it lets loose.

Parent's concern

Any parent should know that feeling. Show me a parent who can sleep soundly at night while his/her kids are out on a "gimmick." You just have to be strict yet communicative with your kid, vigilant—and prayerful. You pray that they stay safe while they're out. (And today's kids start their happening at midnight.)

An incident last Saturday rocked my world. While he was hanging out with friends at two in the morning, my 20-year-old son, who has modeled in fashion shows, was shot and wounded. There was no argument or brawl. For no apparent reason, this guy, whom he had met that night for the first time, just pulled out an air gun and fired at my son.

"Pellets" hit the monobloc chair my son was sitting on, hitting his rump then ricocheting off his ankle. Thank God, the rather serious wound on his rear was stitched up in the hospital, and my son survived.

I found it somewhat miraculous that he survived. Just recently, his *ninong*, Fr. Sonny Ramirez, sent him a picture of Our Lady of Manaoag. It seems Our Lady protected him that night.

If the details are sketchy, it's because my son is still dazed from the trauma, and my family shaken. The guy is reportedly a member of a fraternity; he is said to be the son of a Las Piñas prosecutor. He has previous police records so that the police know him well and the cases he has figured in.

Now what would you do if you were in our shoes? Go on a head-on collision with apparently dubious or even criminal elements and risk your son's life and possibly your family's? Or, as a friend advised my boy: "Let it go. This guy's brain might be fried with drugs and not worth another night of lost sleep. You'll just be joining him in the gutter if you try to get even."

But my good friend, lawyer Lorna Kapunan, a mother herself, said it would be foolhardy to let the incident just pass: "It's right to feel outrage, because the day we give in to cynicism and lose faith in the law and justice system is the day we lose our sense of right and wrong." She insists that anybody who has been wronged shouldn't just sweep it under the rug because doing so only "hastens the collapse of our morals."

I will have to keep this column short for now because there could be a long night ahead of me. It may be so for any parent who cares for her child.

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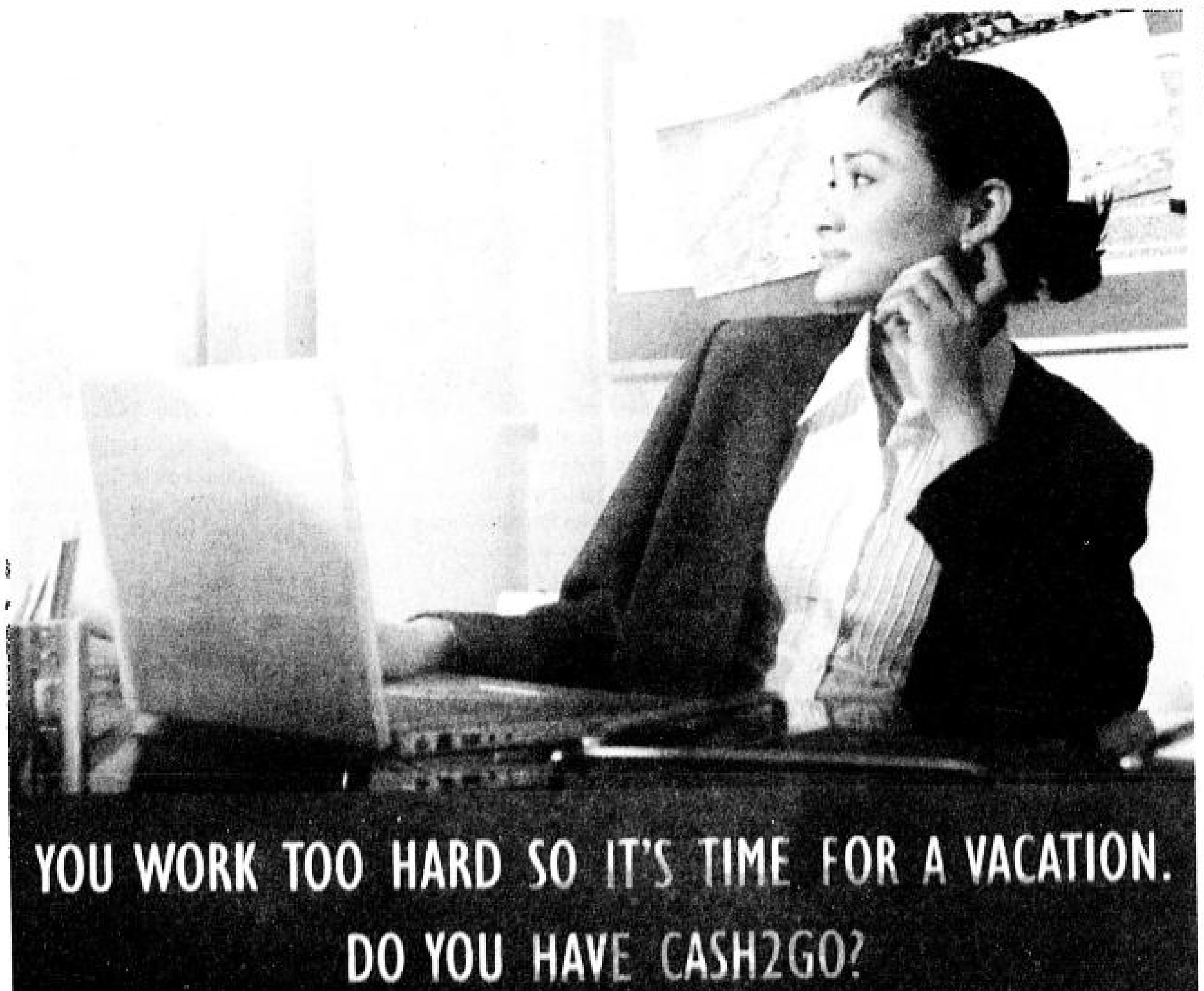

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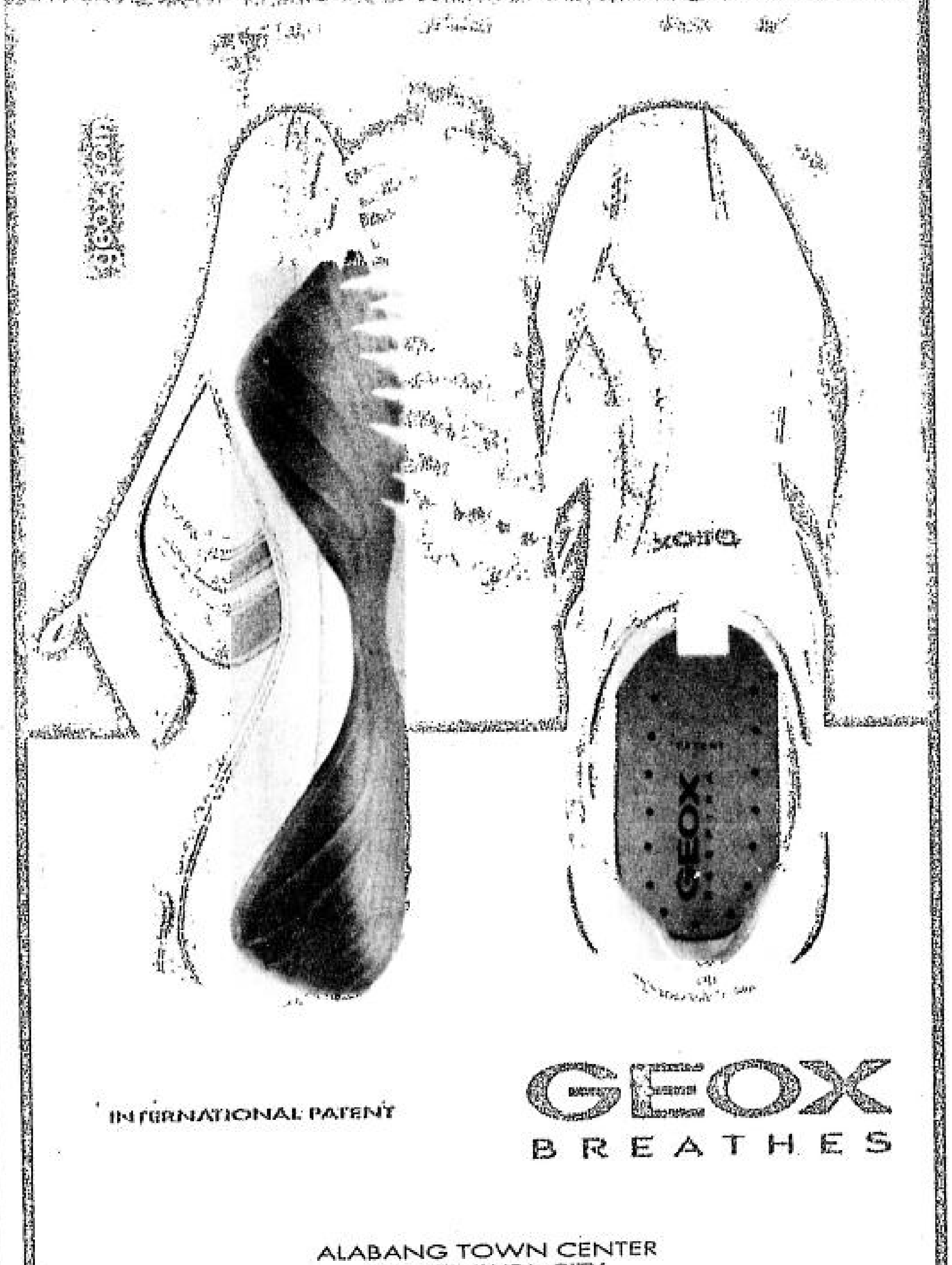

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COOL couple Edwin and Nila Andrews with world-class balladeer José Mari Chan

BUSINESS magnate Oscar Lopez, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel and Italian Ambassador Rubens Fedele

ROYAL ENTOURAGE. Alfred Conrad Portillo, Mateus Wolfgang Stummer and Princesses Ma. Corazon Hugo Dolar, Katrina Marie Muyco, Toni Elyzza Tanchuan, Jea de la Gente Ferrer, Prince Emmanuel B. Cabuang, and William Vincent Arthur Muyco

OUTGOING Queen of Jaro, Rita O. Lopez Peña; this year's reigning Queen, Camille Aguilar Villar; Gina de Venecia, who crowned her; Vice President Noli de Castro; and the Queen's escort, Albertito Lopez III

Beauty and pageantry in the south

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SO THERE I WAS FLYING off again to swinging Iloilo for a *tres* interesting event, *palanggas*. It was going to be the grand coronation of the young miss, **Camille Villar**, an extraordinary, amazing gal trying to live an ordinary life. She has just finished her studies in Ateneo de Manila, and is now focused on her beautiful future.

Well, *palanggas*, this 21-year-young beauty-and-brains was crowned the new Queen of Jaro for 2006 at the historic Jaro Plaza in Jaro, *apres* the traditional afternoon parade around the city.

This colorful happening is held annually, every second of February, in commemoration of the Feast of the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, as in Our Lady of Candles, the patroness of the Archdiocese of Jaro. It was the celebration of Camille's Ilonggo roots, and "her being Queen symbolized the true spirit of being a true Ilonggo—smart, independent, educated and hardworking."

The hip and stylish Camille is after all, the youngest and only daughter of Rep. **Cynthia Villar** of Las Piñas and Sen. **Manny Villar**, whose *famille* roots started from Iloilo. Manny V. himself made his way to the top amid hardship with patience, diligence and honesty. Camille herself manages a franchise of a popular clothing line in Las Piñas. Her business ventures, *naturellement*, do not stop her from actively participating in civic activities.

One of the senator's two sons, super-nice **Paolo V.**, told me that Camille is actually going back to her roots in Iloilo.

The Villars' forefathers were originally from Panay Island, Negros Occidental, and Guimaras Island. One of the descendants, **Catalino Villar**, married **Vicenta Montalban** of Cabatuan, but whose father hails from Miagao. Among the children from this union was the senator, who was born in Tanzan, Iloilo, and who led the extraordinary path from being first a simple fish vendor to an internationally acclaimed entrepreneur, and now a lawmaker.

Then the grand moment of the fiesta began, as Camille made her regal entrance wearing an absolutely gorgeous gown by the talented **Nolie Hans**—an Arabian Nights-inspired ball gown. She was with her tall, handsome consort, super-eligible bachelor **Alberto Lopez III**.

Her coronation was absolutely magic, *palanggas*, attended by hotshot namedroppables such as Vice President **Noli de Castro** and Sec. **Raul Gonzales** at the grand ballroom of the Sarabia Hotel.

Also present were adorable **Gina de Venecia**; popular **José Mari Chan**, and two-term former Guimaras Gov. **Emily Relucio L.**, who was with her husband, former Rep. **Albertito Lopez**, and daughter, **Celine L.**

Giving away her crown was Jaro Queen of 2005 **Rita Fernandina O. Peña**, the brilliant daughter of Iloilo's numero uno hostess, **Sarah Opolencia P.**, and sugar baron **Judgee Lopez Peña**. Rita was in an eye-catching gown by **Patis Tesoro**, no less, *palanggas*.

After the honor bestowed upon Camille, *moi* asked about her plans.

"I hope to be able to contribute to the development of historical and cultural tourism in Jaro," she said. "I'd like to get courses in interior design and urban planning in the United States, or Europe, where I hope to use my skill in the building of communities characterized by quality living in style at affordable prices for the Filipinos; and to help engender among the youth the values of '*sipag at tiyaga*,' which I believe are essential in attaining success in the pursuit of anyone's endeavor, as I have seen in my father's struggle from the bottom, to his present position as a popular senator."

Hail, the Queen!

KATRINA Marie Muyco and escort William Vincent Arthur Muyco

THE VILLAR *famille*. Paulo Villar, Sen. Manny Villar, Queen Camille Villar I, Rep. Cynthia Villar and Mark Villar

THE LOPEZ *famille*. Celine Lopez, Albertito Lopez, former Guimaras Gov. Emily Relucio Lopez and Tito Lopez

MICHELLE Antonio, Tessie Daza, Daisy Payumo and Vicky Locsin. Seated: Gina de Venecia, Rep. Girlie Villarosa, Inday del Rosario and Yaying Dragon

MOI with Iloilo's hip young achievers. Oscar Nava, Mars Florete, Pauline Sarabia Gorriceta Banusing, Trix Sarabia Gorriceta, Marjorie Florete and Marissa Gorriceta

ILOILO'S dynamic City Mayor Gerry Treñas, Archbishop Lagdameo, Justice Sec. Raul Gonzalez and son, Rep. Gonzalez Jr.

SOUTHERN lady Lucel Teodoro, CFC founder Gerry Sotto and husband Frank Padilla

CARLA Santos, Tessie Kabigting, Alice Briones, honoree Dr. Ellen Binay, Celine Bautista, Marilles and Maricris. Standing: Boysie Villavicencio, Mely Magsino, Sol Lavadia, Maricar Sobrepena, Minerva Tanseco, Fortune Ledesma, Meng Perdices, Fanny Blanco, Tessie Amparo and Belen Hidalgo

HOTSHOT invitees Judgee Lopez Peña, Iloilo's top eventologist Nonoy Ybiernas, *moi* and Pamelo Amarilo. Seated: Rica Peña and mother, Iloilo's top hostess Sarah Opolencia Peña; Zinnia Teruel; Risa Peña; and outgoing Queen Rita Peña

NUESTRA Señora de la Candelaria's boys and girls

WEARING a gorgeous embroidered terno is Ma. Corazon Dolar, with escort Alfred Conrad Portillo during the procession around Jaro City.

HOLDING the flag of Our Lady, Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, are Camille Villar and Tito Lopez.

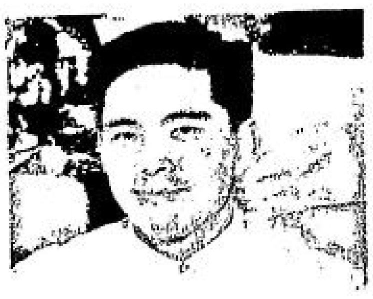
Thanksgiving lunch

It was one of those super-fun welcome lunch get-togethers, superbly organized by the close pals of well-loved Dr. Ellen Sombillo Binay, wife of Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, as if you didn't know, *palanggas*.

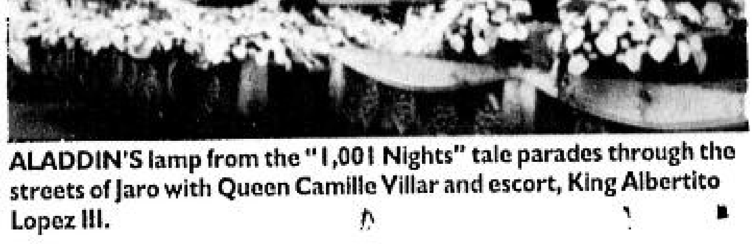
The lunch bunch gathered for loads of chit-chat and gossip, as well as for thanksgiving for Dr. Elenita's successful total knee replacement operation at the Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, California.

Shangri-La Hotel Makati's Shang Palace went all out with its very best menu, which had the gals rushing home to burn all those sinful calories on the treadmill.

Welcome back, *palanggas*.



HANDSOME achiever Benjamin "Jay" Lopez



ALADDIN'S lamp from the "1,001 Nights" tale parades through the streets of Jaro with Queen Camille Villar and escort, King Albertito Lopez III.

Summer sale

ARANETA CENTER HOLDS ITS ANNUAL GRAND Summer Sale April 28-May 1. The four-day sale offers big discounts of up to 50 percent. Participating malls are Ali Mall, New Farmers Plaza, Value Station, Shopwise Araneta Center, SM Cubao and Gateway Mall. Great finds include household and office furniture, clothes, jewelry and toys to sports gear, books, gift and grocery items.

MALL SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall is holding summer sale today until May 1. Get up to 50 percent off on merchandise from department store, Planet Toys, Home Gallery, supermarkets and over 300 specialty stores and boutiques mallwide. Every P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt gets you a raffle coupon for a chance to win washing machines and DVD players. Your P500 single purchase entitles you to join the Shopping Surprises raffle promo for a chance to win an Innova and appliances in the second grand draw in June. Call 6815401 loc. 109.

STORE OPENING
Fashion store Maldita has moved to a new space at the 2/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall. Shown in photo during the store blessing and opening are guests Rhea Santos of GMA and QTV 11; Emelda Teng, Maldita president (right); Jesus Te, HR head (left), and Ricky Arevalo, operations manager. Visit www.malditastore.com.

ANNIVERSARY PARTY. The Brick Road marks its fifth anniversary tomorrow with various activities. Groove to the music of Shamrock with Mike Bon, Red Letter Day and The Private. A summer fashion show, featuring Generation East and Sexy Body models, will present the swimwear collection of Chill. Witness the grand opening of Brick Game Internet Café and Azkaban Billiards. Surf all you want 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for only P50. Avail of 50-percent discount on the third hour of billiards and dart rental. Call 6815401.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Tower Book House holds summer writing workshop for Filipino kids 8-18 years old.

The workshop includes techniques in discovering one's writing style, strengthening and applying that style in various forms of communication. The workshop will also discuss essay writing, feature writing, journalism, travel writing, short story writing and playwriting. Field trips are also included. Workshops will be held weekdays and weekends, in the morning and afternoon. Interested participants may call 8154938/6925; or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

SEMINARS. CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: "Effective Supervisory Skills" (April 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Purchasing Management" (April 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Basic Bookkeeping" (May 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825.

JOB EXPO. About 15,000 vacancies at some of the world's biggest outsourcing companies are available at the Summer Job Expo 2006 on April 28 at the Activity Area of the Marikina Riverbanks Center, Marikina City. The fair, which includes Convergy's Philippines Services Corp., Etelecare and Advanced Contact Solutions, targets Northern-Central Manila and Rizal residents. For details, contact Philtrade Exhibits at 8250804/8253482/0917-8557137 or e-mail philtradeevents@yahoo.com.ph.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF), in coordination with the Intramuros Administration and YKL Trading & Development Corp., will be conducting a series of photography workshops starting April 30 at the FPPF Chamber in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. The 4-Sunday basic photo course will have Vic Sison, Ador Pamintuan, professor Cecilia Angeles, Ed Santiago and Sri Lankan Tilak Hettige as lecturers. For details, contact FPPF at 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave./Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, or call Nyma/Ben/Argie at 8435341/8137420.

FIESTA SALE. Robinsons Place holds its Sta. Rosa's Fiesta Sale April 28-30. Enjoy 50-percent discount on home accessories, kids' stuff, among others. Call 6836355.

LAUNCH. Olympus will be launching a new line of digital cameras with a grand bash on April 28 at Mezze in Greenbelt 2, Makati City. Call 6360255 to 58.

SUMMER FIESTA. Enchanted Kingdom holds its "Festivale Danze!" on April 29 and 30, May 6, 7,13 and 14. For more details, visit www.enchanted-kingdom.com.ph or call 8302116.

JOB EXPO. Business Outsourcing Job Fair is scheduled to recruit applicants, May 12-13, at Santuario de San Antonio Parish center, Forbes Park, Makati City. Call 8250804/8253482 or 0920-8766505 or e-mail philtradeevents@yahoo.com.

CAT SHOW. Starmall Edsa will host a cat show and parade, April 29, at Starmall Edsa. A Cat Summer Costume Contest is also set on the same day. The contest is open to all types or breeds of cats. The cats will be judged based on creativity of costume, uniqueness and grooming. Registration forms are available at the Starmall Customer Service booth. Call 7181886.

DENTAL CONVENTION. Special scientific symposia, featuring 12 foreign and 22 Filipino speakers, will highlight the 98th annual convention of the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) at the Philippine International Convention Center May 1-6. With the theme "Dental Service at Its Best through Positive Convergence," the convention is expected to draw some 10,000 dentists from all over the country. Onsite registration starts May 1 for local dentists (P1,700), for dental technicians (P1,000), and for students (P500). Call the PDA Secretariat at 8978091 or 8904609.

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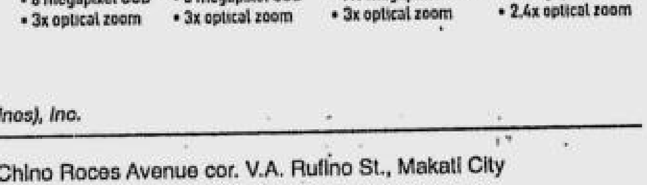

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GREEN crochet bolero with sewn pearl trimming over lavender floral embroidered blouse and denim skirt

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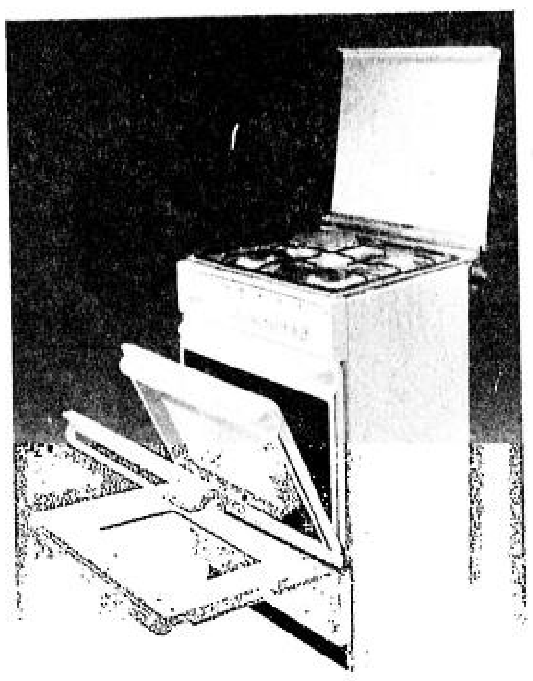

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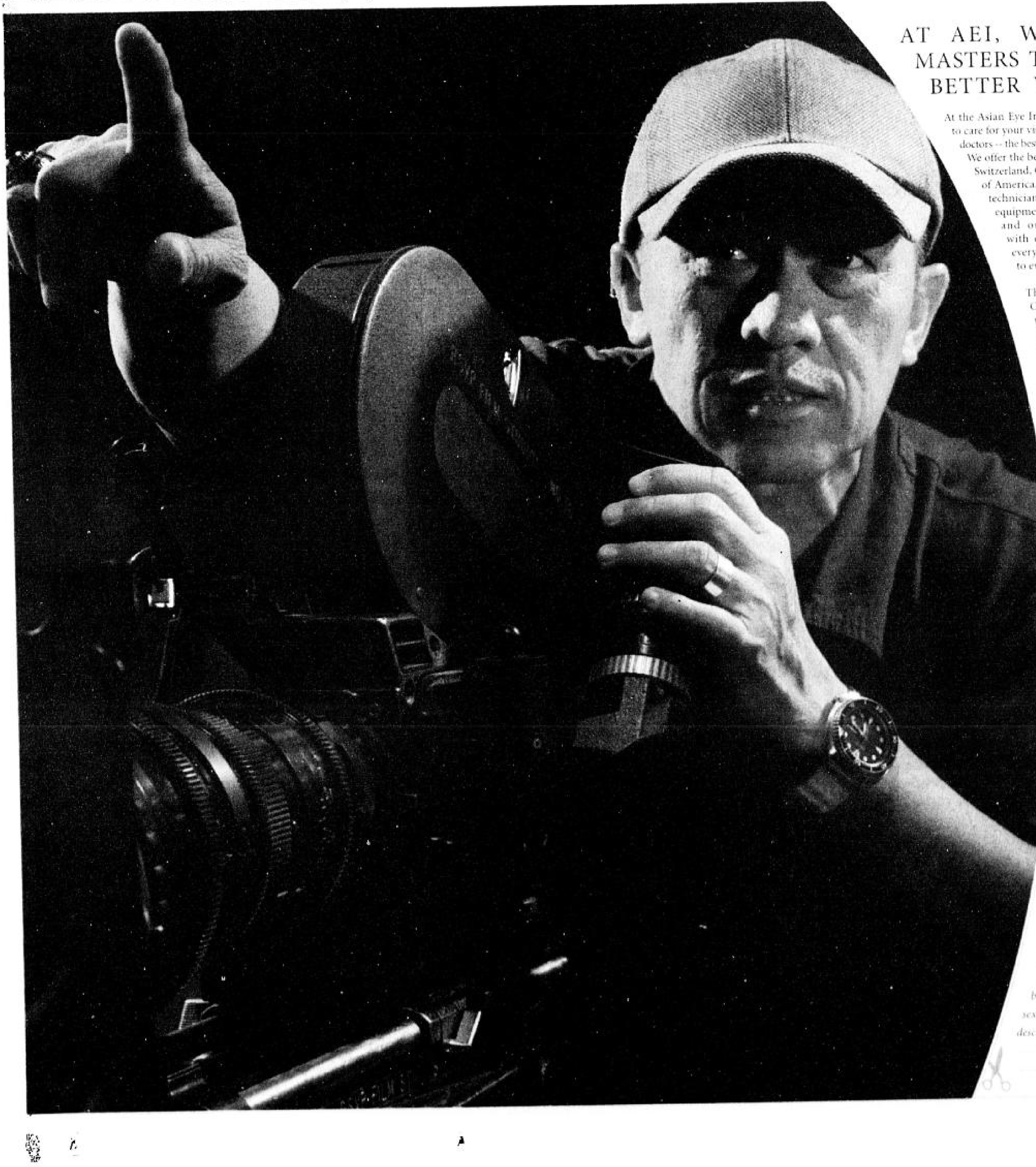

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LIFESTYLE

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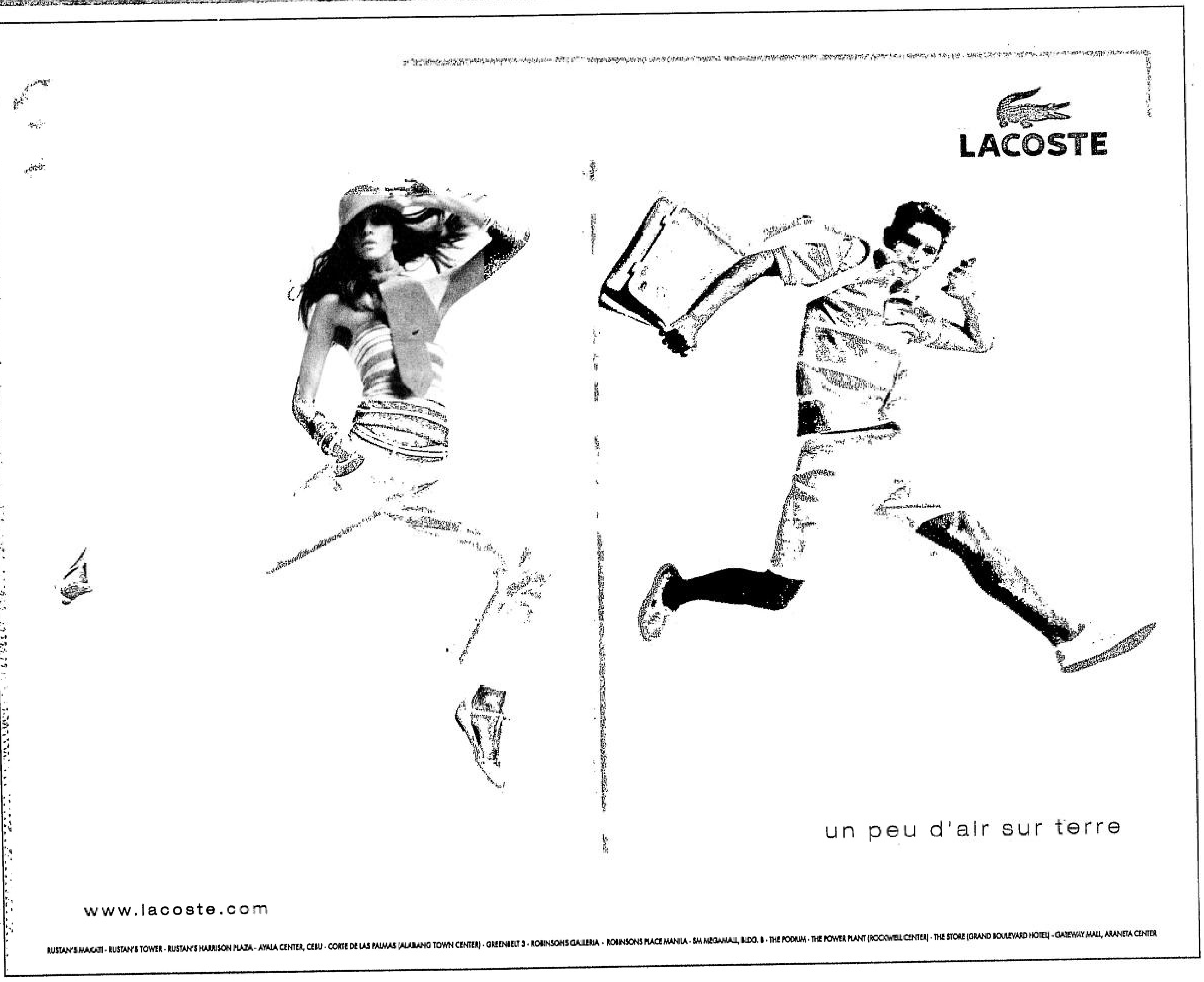
FASHION

American vintage /D2

Gaupo goes global /D5

Pre-fall Louis Vuitton /D6

Mighty Aphrodite



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RED gown by Charina Sarte, eyewear from Polo Ralph Lauren, gold belt from K2

East goes West

By Cheche V. Moral

It's rare these days for a season to pass without seeing collections that have been subtly, or overtly, inspired by foreign elements or costumes

IT IS THE WEST THAT dictates fashion in that we look to it for trend references every six months. That periodic style shift in fashion design as prescribed by the seasons is, after all, a Western concept.

But for centuries, the impact of world cultures and ethnic traditions in fashion design has been undeniable. It was possibly the Silk Road, for instance, that set in motion what would be the East's continued influence, many centuries later, on global fashion design.

Contemporary fashions, however, have gone beyond mere use of exotic materials—Chinese silk, Indian cotton—from faraway locales for clothes that would suit so-called Western tastes, as the case was in the 19th century.

It's rare these days for a season to pass without seeing collections that have been subtly, or overtly, inspired by foreign elements or costumes. Think Boho Gypsy look, or Grecian necklines. The kimono. Indian embroidery. The sari. Oriental prints.

As early as the 1900s, the designer Paul Poiret was already churning out harem pants, turbans, tunics and jeweled slippers with exotic Oriental embellishments. His famous hobble skirt was inspired by the restricted gaits of the Japanese geishas.

The renewed interest in ethnic-inspired clothing, however, dates to the emergence of '60s pop music and well into the '70s, which brought Indian dresses and footwear to the streets. It was the youth's radical counter-culture that brought about homespun fashions into the mainstream—macramé, bead accessories, hemp bags and footwear.

The autocratic style principles of the Western fashion elite would eventually yield to street culture so that these days, while the world still refers to the West for trends, design purveyors also look outward for inspiration.

Exotic elements are continually adapted, often tempered, in modern fashions.

This spring alone, several designers looked to Japan for inspiration. Alexander McQueen hinted at the obi for a matte gold bow dress. Others were more straightforward, with Japanese prints and obi belts from Dries Van Noten or an obi-belted robe dress from Alber Elbaz at Lanvin.

Draped Grecian necklines were aplenty at Elie Saab, Donna Karan, Roberto Cavalli, Viktor & Rolf, Sophia Kokosalaki and at Akris for fall.

Antonio Marras at Kenzo dressed his women in embroidered pinafores à la the Chinese princess in the opera "Turandot" for the fall collections.

GREEN sheer dress from Vintage by Anne Bichelmeir, metallic-green belt from K2, drop earrings from People are People.

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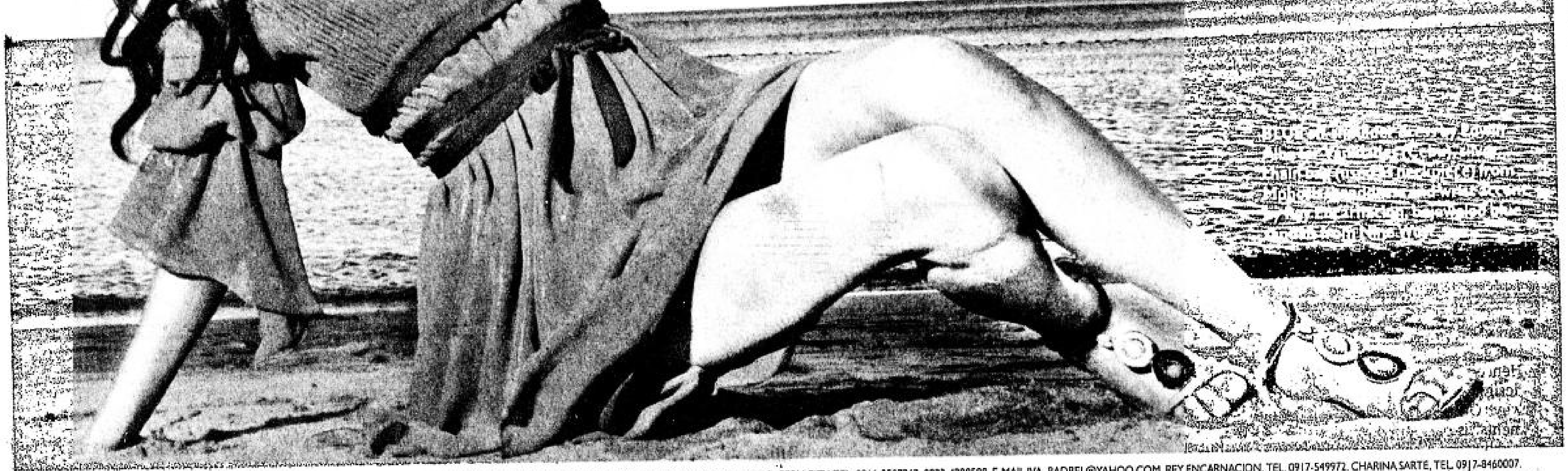

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Vintage America

By Leica Carpo
Contributor
Photos by Ryan Lim

PUCCI-LIKE print for "the girl who cares"

MARC Jacobs platforms

The author in Living Dolls, South Beach , Miami

The United States still has the best fashion flea markets where fashionistas can score great finds

NO FASHION LOVER CAN DENY THAT scoring vintage finds in any country is the best cheap thrill money can buy. Unfortunately, due to growing demand, once-loved items no longer belong solely to the category of "budget buys" as even the platinum Amex fashion set has latched on to vintage's timeless charm, driving the prices up. So I am happy to report that on a recent trip to SF, LA, Miami and NYC, I was still able to score more than a few memorable and affordable fab vintage finds.

New York City

New York is filled with vintage stores for all sorts of shoppers. It offers vintage finds—from high-brow period pieces appropriate for Oscar-type events to ghetto fab wear.

I love Soho and Nolita shops in general, but I must say their "city prices" hardly appeal. So my friend, Ana Divinagrancia, took me to one of her fave shopping 'hoods, such as Williamsburg in Brooklyn, which is a short trip on the metro past Soho .

Locals swear Williamsburg is what Soho was like before the latter became too commercialized and before rent control ended. This small, hip neighborhood is filled with boutiques brimming with personality, from unique merchandise to delicious ethnic restaurants.

Most of the stores there specialize in vintage and upcoming local designers. This place is a real shoppers' haven; bargains can still be had even at P52 to US$1.

Rabbits (rabbitsny@hotmail.com) is a vintage select shop, sort of Japanese-edited *ukay-ukay*.

Ugly Luggage. If you like old trunks and bags, this can be your store. It's at 214 Bedford Avenue.

Pop, where one finds vintage-inspired gear (www.shoppop.com)

Ear Wax, filled with thoughtfully chosen CDs and records, new or used

Calypso. Vintage and voyage in every shade under the rainbow.

Find Outlet, located in the meat-packing district. It stocks not just second-hand but last season's collections by European and avant-garde designers at 50-75 percent off.

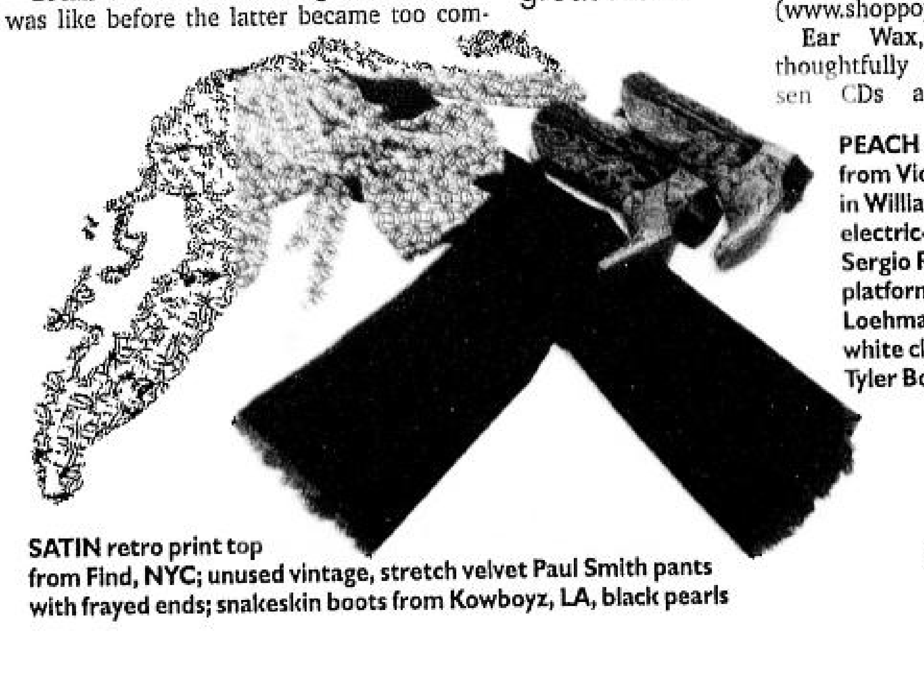
Hooti Couture, noted by Ginia Bellafante of the New York Times as the premier spot for vintage finds. Owner, Alison Houtte writes in her book, "Alligators, Old Mink and New Money," that, "...grandmothers are the true fashion icons, crocodile is the 'real' arm candy and one should never hesitate to throw a catwalk in their step."

Flatbush, NYC. Cheap jacks, used by the designers of "Project Runway" as a source for materials

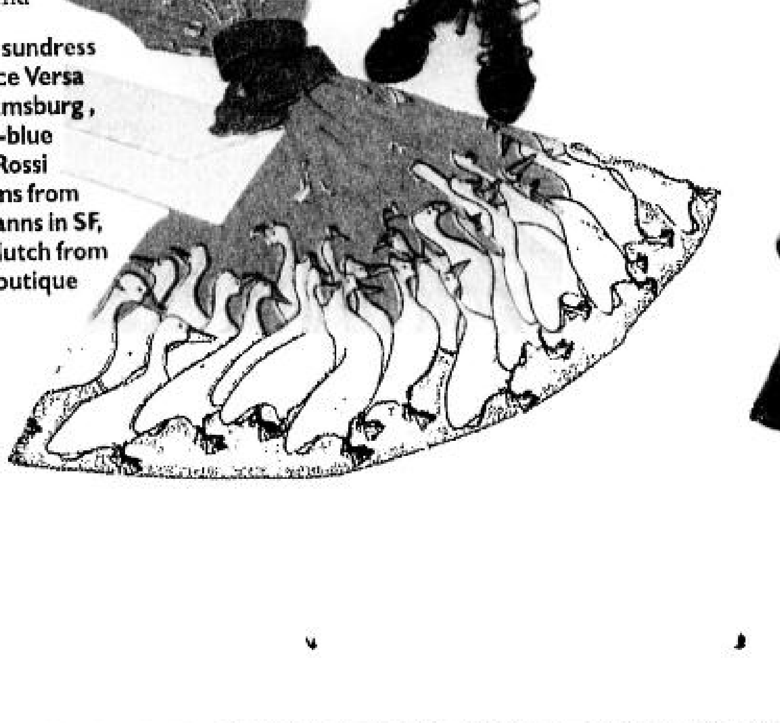
VINTAGE/ D3

BUYING VINTAGE TIPS

- Sizes vary, depending on the era, so don't rely on label sizing.
- Enlist the help of a talented tailor to help tweak the pieces to make them fit your personal figure and style.
- Come equipped with a flashlight, magnifying glass and tape measure. Check for lining and fabric integrity, missing buttons and potential repairs. This way you can bargain better. Know how much you will shell out in alterations.
- Know your body type and what works best on your figure—it speeds up the process and helps you edit as you shop.
- Patience and perseverance are a key because you will never know what's in the next rack. Enjoy the hunt. Part of what makes vintage-shopping so addicting is the thrill of the unexpected.
- Shop with "wow factor" and "personal style ensembles" in mind. Vintage shouldn't just about be about looking for safe classic pieces.
- Best tip I got was from vintage collector/designer Liz Lirag of New Yorker Boutique, "Don't make finding the ultimate piece be the goal because the best finds happen by accident."



SATIN retro print top from Find, NYC; unused vintage, stretch velvet Paul Smith pants with frayed ends; snakeskin boots from Kowboyz, LA, black pearls



PEACH sundress from Vice Versa in Williamsburg , electric-blue Sergio Rossi platforms from Loehmanns in SF, white clutch from Tyler Boutique

NEWSBOY cap, Rock Drakitty shirt from Kimikal, Chloe black heels, red leather belt by Alexis Katz from Rabbits NYC

FAUX fur capelet from Salvatioin Army, distressed "camos," chocolate brown knee-high boots

Vintage America

From page D2

Not necessarily vintage but must-go-to stores:

It is always good to know the latest trend but at a tenth of the price.

Kirna Zabete at 98 Greene St., Soho, the saccharine-free "supermarket of style"

Intermix at 98 Prince St., Soho. This place is so stylishly decadent, it's downright sinful.

Via Bus Stop at 172 Mercer Street, Soho. An intellectual Mecca of fashion-carrying relatively unknown amazing designers like Anne Valerie Hash

South Beach, Miami

South Beach stores run the gamut of fashion from well-known Madison Avenue labels to skimpy beach wear from South America. Famed for being the home of Lilly Pullitzer's bright tropical preppie prints, this town is bursting with Art Deco buildings.

Kimikal urban gear includes vintage rock-and-roll tee originals and reproduced with a twist.

Living Dolls. Vintage designer clothing boutique, styling and rentals (living-dolls@bellsouth.net or living-dolls2@bellssouth.net)

Designlab, whose owners plead, "Please do not mistreat fashion." Located in Espagnola Way. Look for handmade T-shirts with one-of-a-kind-statements.

Caterina Lucci. Distressed beachwear from all over the world comes complete with the perfect footwear, an amazing collection of Jack Rogers' thongs.

Los Angeles

Once they are photographed in their outfits, most LA actresses/socialites have no choice but give their outfits up for resale or charity. Hence this is the place to stock up on the latest designs sometimes literally fresh off the runway. Of course, since making "style statements" is part and parcel of any actor's bread and butter, LA has something for everyone.

Decades 2, is where you can score last season's Marni or Dolce Gabbana with minimal wear and tear. They don't come cheap but you can expect prices to be at least 60 percent off retail.

Decades offers vintage from Schiaparelli to Coco Chanel in mint condition. If they don't have it, they will get it for you as long as you are willing to pay the price.

Kowboyz on 8050 Beverly Blvd., where they buy, rent and sell boots and western gear. Look for owner Brad. This institution has supplied Western movies for ages. Part of the thrill of owning a used pair is the thought the boots were once worn by someone in the movies.

Wasteland is the Gap or Bench of vintage. Go for basics and accidentally stumble upon a killer motorcycle jacket from the '50s for $20!

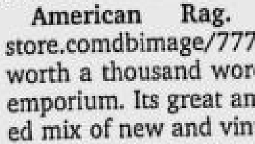
Melrose street has a lot of stores to check out.

Websites to try: www.10best.com/Los_Angeles/Shopping/Vintage_Clothing_Stores/index.html

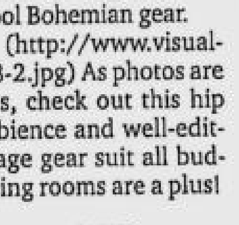
San Francisco

The softer side of both LA and NYC in terms of fashion. Its huge gay population makes it a fashion destination even for the hard-core fashionistas. Note "relaxed look" does not necessarily mean unstylish. As the site of '60s revolution, San Francisco has a lot of original rock-and-roll tees and other cool Bohemian gear.

American Rag. (http://www.visualstore.comdbimage/7778-2.jpg) As photos are worth a thousand words, check out this hip emporium. Its great ambience and well-edited mix of new and vintage gear suit all budgets. Its brightly lit dressing rooms are a plus!



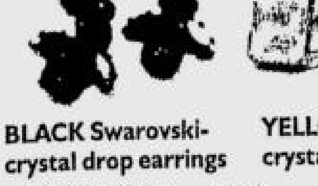
YELLOW leather belt from Rabbits NYC



GOLD mesh belt from Vice Versa, NYC

BLACK Swarovski-crystal drop earrings

YELLOW ring, pink crystal from Jo



PUCCI envelope bag

My fave global shopping haunt...

"...is definitely Tokyo. First, because it's literally my second home and, second, because it's the home of Shu Uemura and is a true haven for any beauty junkie. There's a beauty product launched every 30 seconds! When it comes to fashion, nothing compares to the variety, quality and high level of the products, concepts and stores in Tokyo. My fave haunts are Omotesando, Harajuku and Shibuya. My fave department store is 109! Tokyo never ceases to inspire and amaze me. It's in a category of its own."

–Tina Tinio
Business unit manager, Shu Uemura and Kiehl's since 1851

"...would still have to be Bangkok, in spite of the fact that the US and Europe have so much to offer. Everything—from clothing, home interiors, food, accommodations, transit, you name it—is indulgently cheap there. You needn't have a big budget to shop 'til you drop. Even though the peso is terribly devalued, it still goes a long way."

–Bianca Valerio
Model, TV host

"...is Bangkok because everything in my size is available there. I frequent Chatuchak, Siam Discovery, MBK and Pratunam for really cheap finds. After shopping, I eat to my heart's delight."

–Kat Von Einsiedel
Assistant editor, Lifestyle Titles, Hip

"...are the Rome and Paris flea markets, where you can chance upon trashy, cheap and absolutely great finds. Even just sorting through the junk can give you a lot of design and style ideas."

–Patty Eustaquio
Designer/artist

"...is Rastro in Madrid for its fab leather hides, old leather-bound books, antique door handles and chandelier spare parts, old musical instruments, tapestries and fancy picture frames."

–Chat Fores
Interior designer

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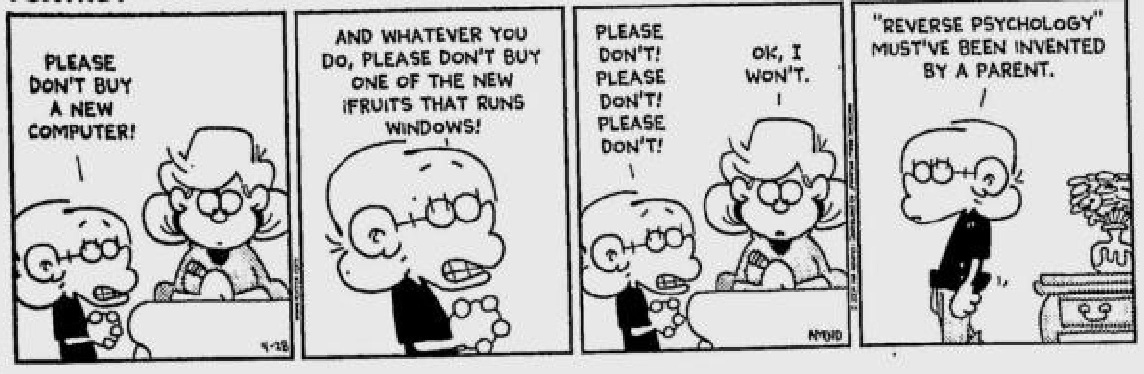
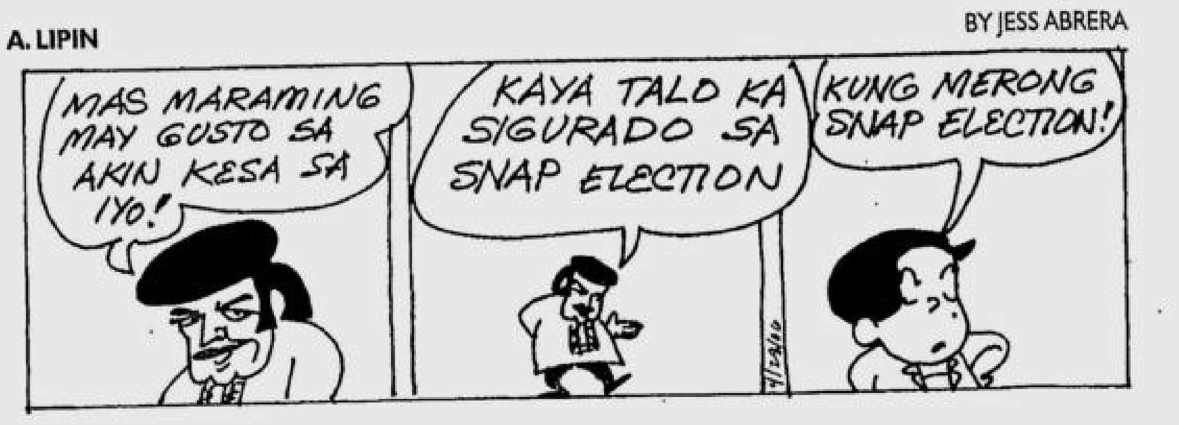

PLEASE DON'T BUY A NEW COMPUTER!
AND WHATEVER YOU DO, PLEASE DON'T BUY ONE OF THE NEW iFRUITS THAT RUNS WINDOWS!
PLEASE DON'T! PLEASE DON'T! PLEASE DON'T!
OK, I WON'T.
"REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY" MUST'VE BEEN INVENTED BY A PARENT.
4-28

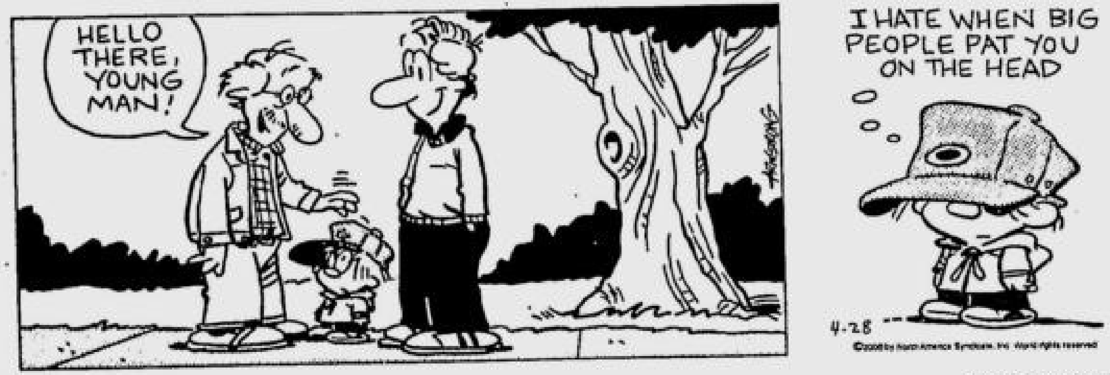
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAS MARAMING MAY GUSTO SA AKIN KESA SA IYO!
KAYA TALO KA SIGURADO SA SNAP ELECTION
KUNG MERONG SNAP ELECTION!

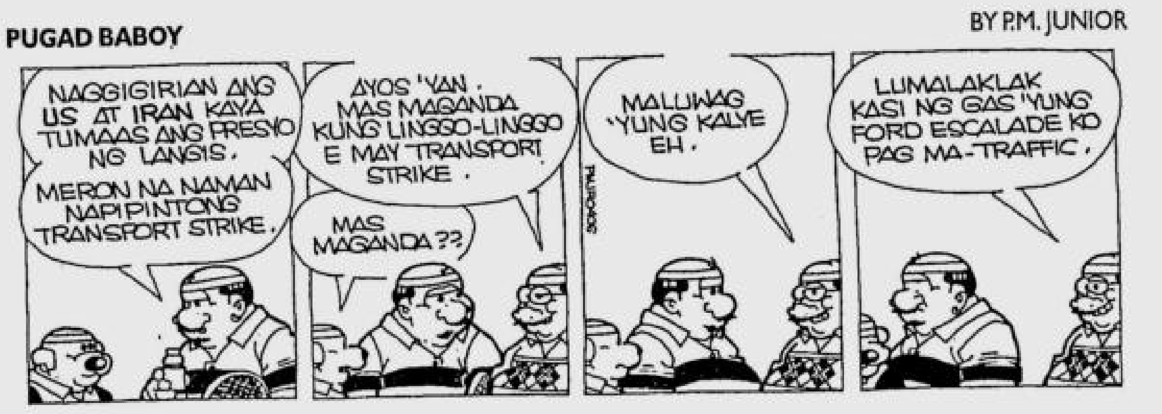
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HELLO THERE, YOUNG MAN!
I HATE WHEN BIG PEOPLE PAT YOU ON THE HEAD
4-28

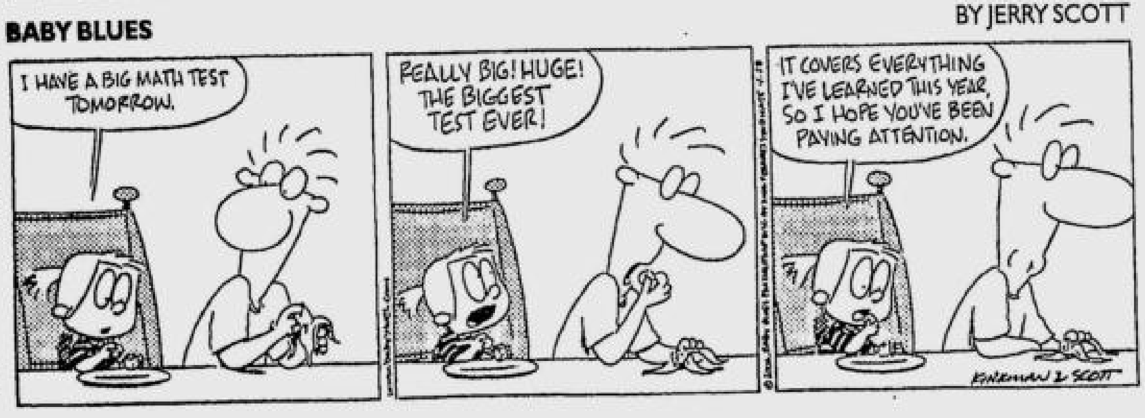
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGGIGIRIAN ANG US AT IRAN KAYA TUMAAS ANG PRESYO NG LANGIS.
MERON NA NAMAN NAPIPINTONG TRANSPORT STRIKE.
AYOS 'YAN. MAS MAGANDA KUNG LINGGO-LINGGO E MAY TRANSPORT STRIKE.
MAS MAGANDA??
MALUWAG 'YUNG KALYE EH.
LUMALAKLAK KASI NG GAS 'YUNG FORD ESCALADE KO PAG MA-TRAFFIC.

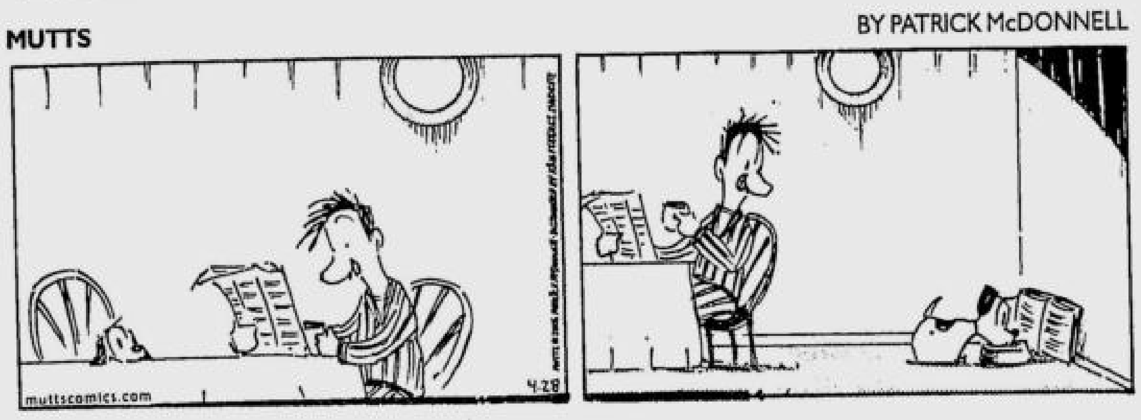
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I HAVE A BIG MATH TEST TOMORROW.
REALLY BIG! HUGE! THE BIGGEST TEST EVER!
IT COVERS EVERYTHING I'VE LEARNED THIS YEAR, SO I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

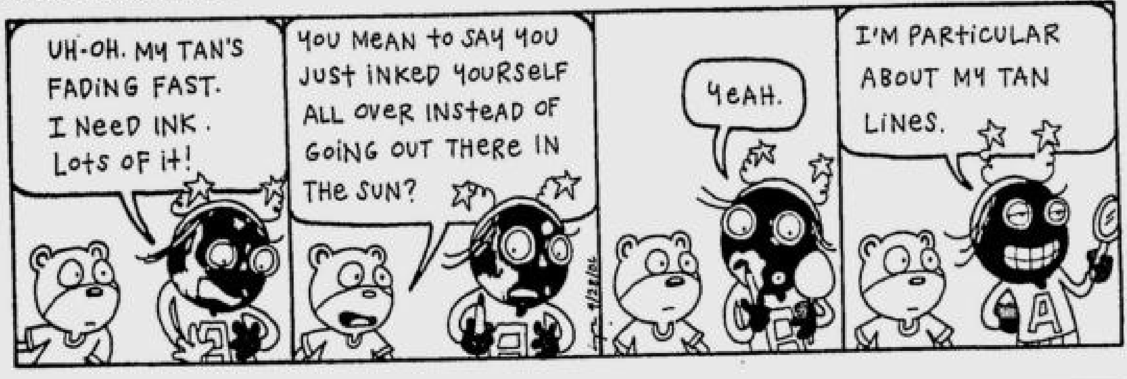
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
4-28

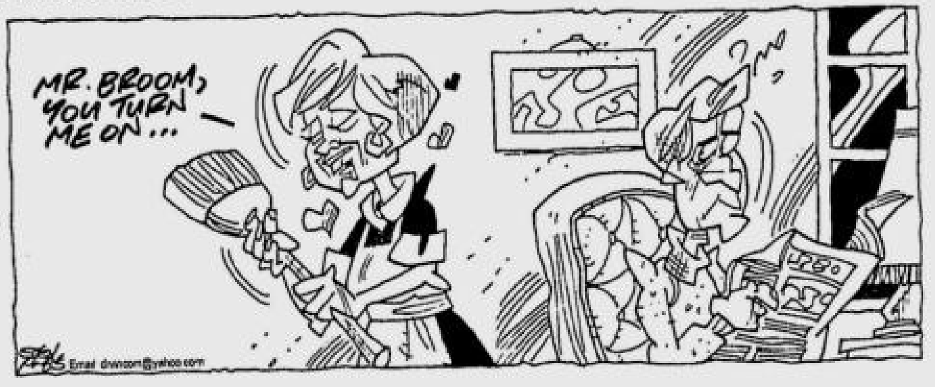
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-OH. MY TAN'S FADING FAST. I NEED INK. LOTS OF IT!
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU JUST INKED YOURSELF ALL OVER INSTEAD OF GOING OUT THERE IN THE SUN?
YEAH.
I'M PARTICULAR ABOUT MY TAN LINES.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MR. BROOM, YOU TURN ME ON...
Email dvincom@yahoo.com

A RECENT SURVEY SHOWS THAT BRITISH WOMEN PREFER HOUSE CLEANING TO MAKING LOVE WITH THEIR HUSBANDS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have excellent taste. You appreciate the finer things in life. You're charming, and you maintain a kind of inner idealism in the business world (where you have savvy). At the age of 23, you become more verbal, curious and interested in communication. When you are 53, you value home, gardening, boating, security and family. Work hard now for rewards in 2007.

Birthdate of: Jay Leno, TV host; Ann-Margret, actress; Jessica Alba, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might go on a shopping spree today—and you're equally as ambitious to make money as well. It feels like you have both money and energy to burn!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're highly energized today! Go after whatever you want. However, in the morning, if you feel confused, don't act. Trust your instincts.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Stay in the background today. Work alone if you can. You need time by yourself. Do the crossword in this newspaper. Perhaps you prefer Sudoku? (You love puzzles and games.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can be confident that any confusion you have with friends or groups about shared property will be cleared up soon. This applies to insurance matters and inheritances as well.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Initially, you might encounter opposition from partners or bosses about something. However, once others understand what you want to do, you'll get the green light!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Confusion about other cultures, races of people or those of different backgrounds could cloud an issue today. Fortunately, something comes along to blow those clouds away. Yay!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might not know how to handle the responsibilities for children or someone in particular at the beginning of today. By the end of the day, you're very clear about everything.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with others who fail to understand what you're trying to achieve now. Once your goal is obvious, others will fall in line and support you.

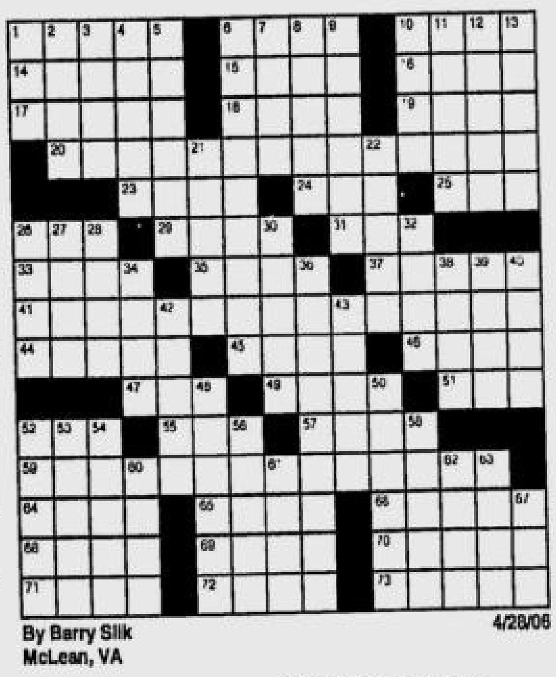
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be careful about possible lies or deception early today. This doesn't have to happen, but it might. By evening, you will assert yourself with others very clearly. (Truth is important to you.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful about financial speculation or playing any kind of a long shot earlier today. By evening and early-morning tomorrow, your luck completely changes for the better!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your domestic scene is confused and possibly even messy today. Don't give up. By evening, clarity dawns, and by tomorrow morning, you have lots of energy to make improvements.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't work hard trying to persuade others to agree with you today. Communications are confused. By tomorrow, people are eating out of your hand!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

4/28/06

ACROSS
1 Family car
6 Sign of sadness
10 Catch a wave
14 Greek letter
15 Walk in water
16 Organic compound
17 Margarita garnishes
18 Raw minerals
19 Island off Tuscany
20 Common cents
23 Travel on tarmac
24 Mai ___ cocktail
25 Sound of disapproval
26 Nuke
29 Ceremonial act
31 Station from Tenn.
33 Writer Bagnold
35 Lairs
37 Place for les eleves
41 Common scents
44 Productive hen
45 Legal procedure
46 Aussie rockers
47 Spasm
49 Once, once
51 Opposite of WNW
52 Parabolic path
56 Dig in!
57 Mideast sultanate
59 Common sense
64 Bay of Pigs island
65 Follow the leader
66 Keep clear of
68 Elevator pioneer
69 Wolfish look
70 Flood barrier
71 Part of M.I.T.
72 Witty Bombeck
73 Rub out

DOWN
1 Scale note
2 Actor Jannings
3 Actress Moore
4 Talent broker
5 Daytona 500 org.
6 Bottle capacity, frequently
7 Merit
8 Skillful
9 Usher after the interval
10 Spotted
11 Dark
12 Judges' garb
13 Small bottle
21 Nitrous ___ (laughing gas)
22 Frisco athlete
26 Fervor
27 "The King and I" role
28 Compassion
30 Follow as a result
32 Final Four letters
34 South Beach, for one
36 Freshwater green algae
38 First word of "The Raven"
39 Old Fords
40 Opal ending
42 Snooped
43 "Who's there?" reply
48 Sweet-talk
50 Mexican menu choice
52 Fancy necktie
53 Course taken
54 Like dice
56 Potato or yam
58 Less than once
60 Rambler maker
61 Consider
62 PBS series
63 Even scores
67 Actress Sandra

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	T	E	■	M	A	C	E	■	M	A	G	M	A
O	M	A	N	■	E	L	A	T	■	E	L	L	I	S
N	O	M	A	T	T	E	R	H	O	W	M	U	C	H
I	C	E	■	A	C	E	T	I	C	■	S	T	A	Y
C	O	R	N	E	A	■	A	C	T	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	L	L	S	■	■	E	N	T	R	A	P
C	A	T	S	■	F	I	G	H	T	T	H	E	R	E
P	R	O	S	E	■	P	R	O	■	S	E	P	A	L
A	L	W	A	Y	S	S	E	E	M	■	T	O	B	E
S	O	N	N	E	T	■	■	D	A	M	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	D	O	R	N	■	R	U	S	S	E	T
A	P	S	O	■	R	O	A	S	T	S	■	T	R	A
P	L	E	N	T	Y	O	F	K	I	T	T	E	N	S
S	A	N	T	A	■	S	T	A	N	■	E	R	I	K
E	N	D	O	W	■	T	A	T	I	■	L	E	E	S

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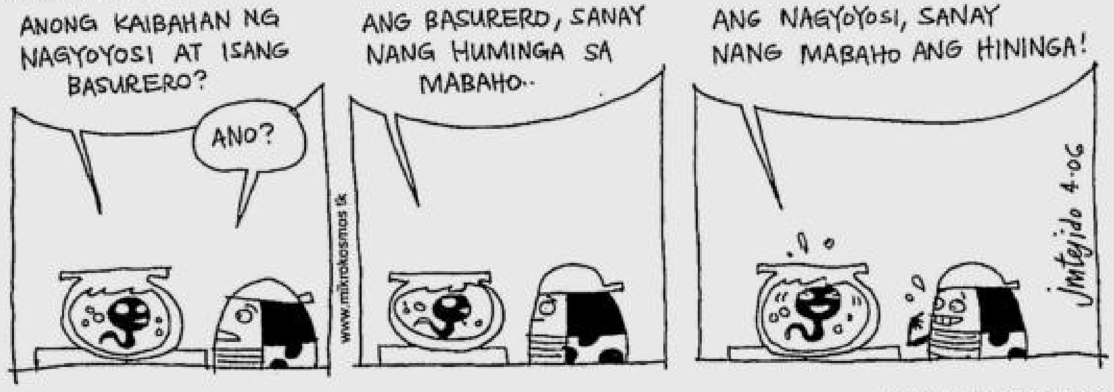
4/28/06

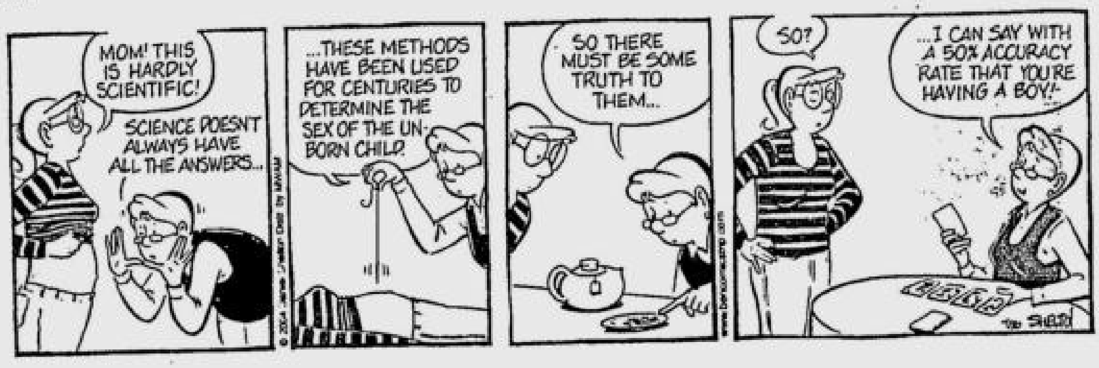
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG KAIBAHAN NG NAGYOYOSI AT ISANG BASURERO?
ANO?
ANG BASURERD, SANAY NANG HUMINGA SA MABAHO..
ANG NAGYOYOSI, SANAY NANG MABAHO ANG HININGA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 4-06

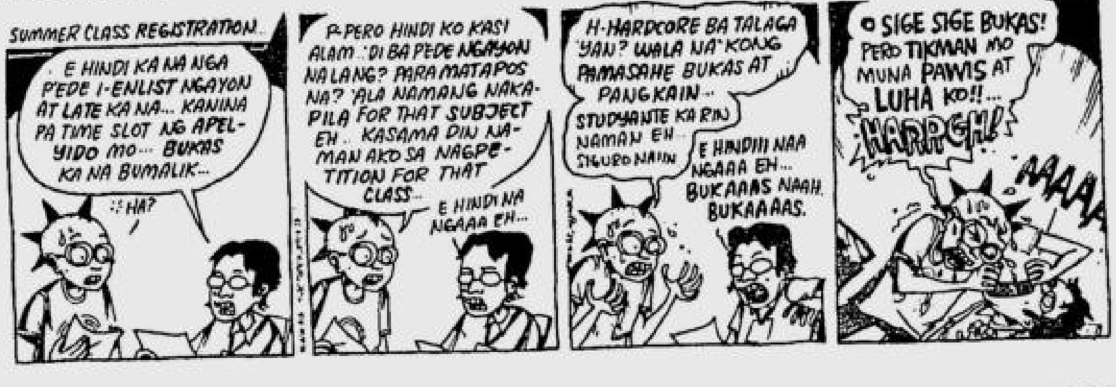
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOM! THIS IS HARDLY SCIENTIFIC!
SCIENCE DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS...
...THESE METHODS HAVE BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES TO DETERMINE THE SEX OF THE UNBORN CHILD!
SO THERE MUST BE SOME TRUTH TO THEM...
SO?
...I CAN SAY WITH A 50% ACCURACY RATE THAT YOU'RE HAVING A BOY!

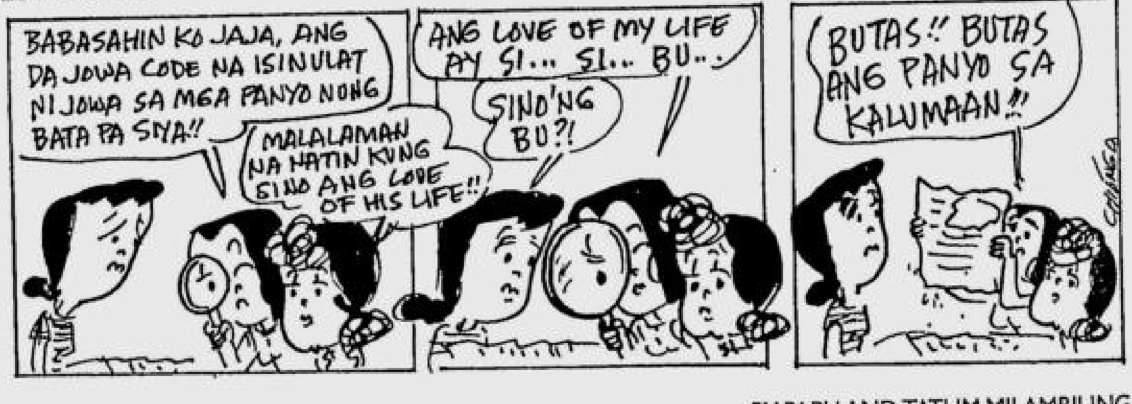
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SUMMER CLASS REGISTRATION..
E HINDI KA NA NGA PEDE I-ENLIST NGAYON AT LATE KA NA... KANINA PA TIME SLOT NG APELYIDO MO... BUKAS KA NA BUMALIK...
HA?
P-PERO HINDI KO KASI ALAM..DI BA PEDE NGAYON NA LANG? PARA MATAPOS NA? 'ALA NAMANG NAKAPILA FOR THAT SUBJECT EH.. KASAMA DIN NAMAN AKO SA NAGPETITION FOR THAT CLASS..
E HINDI NA NGAAA EH...
H-HARDCORE BA TALAGA 'YAN? WALA NA KONG PAMASAHE BUKAS AT PANGKAIN..
STUDYANTE KA RIN NAMAN EH.. SIGURO NAIN
E HINDIII NAA NGAAA EH... BUKAAAS NAAH. BUKAAAAS.
O SIGE SIGE BUKAS! PERO TIKMAN MO MUNA PAWIS AT LUHA KO!!...
HARRGH!
AAAA

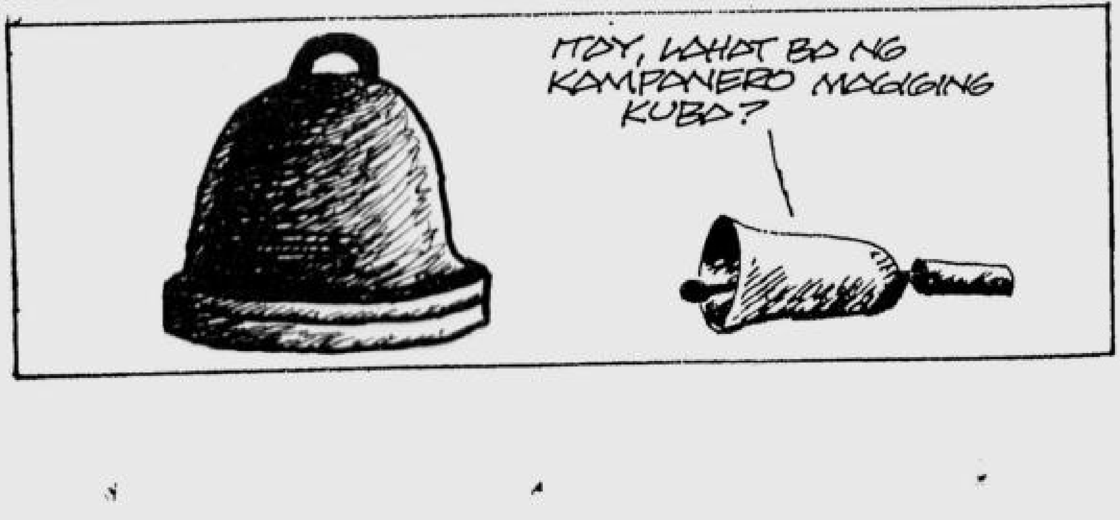
LOVEKNOTS

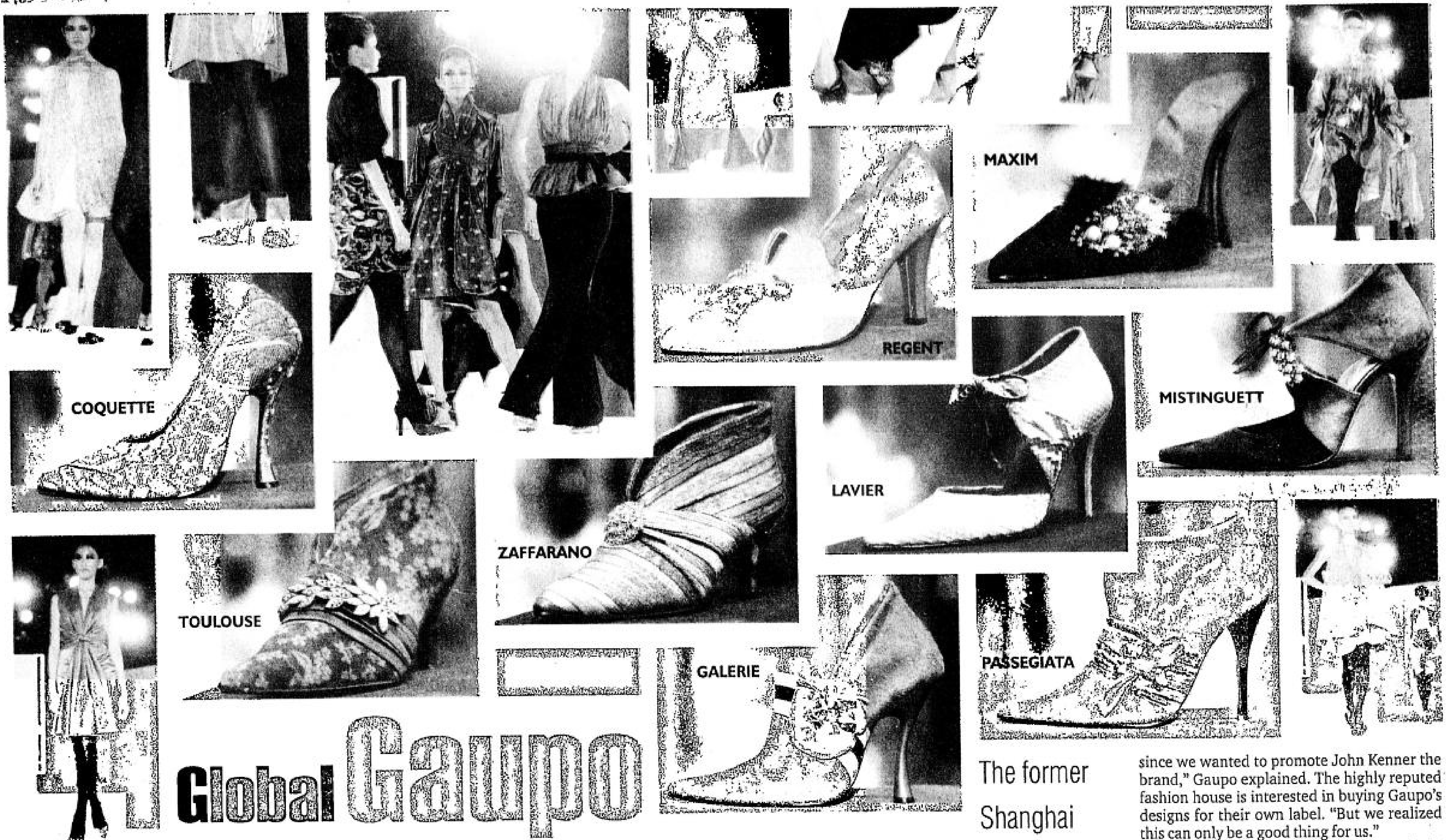
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BABASAHIN KO JAJA, ANG DA JOWA CODE NA ISINULAT NI JOWA SA MGA PANYO NONG BATA PA SIYA!!
MALALAMAN NA NATIN KUNG SINO ANG LOVE OF HIS LIFE!!
ANG LOVE OF MY LIFE AY SI... SI... BU..
SINO'NG BU?!
BUTAS!! BUTAS ANG PANYO SA KALUMAAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ITOY, WHAT BA NG KAMPANERO MAGIGING KUBA?



Global Gaupo

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT WAS EXPORT BUYERS, NOT the usual fashion set, that made up Cesar Gaupo's audience when he presented his Fall/Winter 2006 forecasts last week at Le Pavilion in Pasay City. Quite rare in this town.

It was the buyers' night of Manila F.A.M.E. International 2006, the trade show showcasing homeware, furniture, fashion and gift products, and holiday décor, which ended Saturday.

While Gaupo has come back, the global mindset at approaching the business of fashion, a dictum gleaned from his four-year stint as chief designer of an international fashion house, seems to have become second nature.

"I think of what the international market wants, that's how I work now," Gaupo explained several days after the show, as he brought out the clothes from their plastic dust bags. "Always," he added, even as his clothes are intended for local clients.

Dresses that looked like several layered pieces on the runway were, in fact, mostly solitary pieces with overlays attached to the inner dress so that each had up to four layers. After all, they're for fall-winter, he explained.

Gaupo worked on the shawl silhouette for most of his 30-look collection, using such materials as silk, satin, organza, wool and some richly beaded fabrics. Save for 4-5 body-skimming pieces, one of which bared the midriff, Gaupo seemed to have had less-than-nubile bodies in mind for this collection.

He draped oversized shawls over the neck, either tied around to create an Empire waist or allowed to swing freely. They concealed figure imperfections, but the results were far from frumpy, even considering the amount of fabric used. Gaupo was, in fact, inspired by the Italian Renaissance, which emphasized volume and breadth in womenswear.

"Not everything is fitted, but all [the inner dresses] are fitted so you feel sexy inside," he noted.

John Kenner for fall

Gaupo's show, which was largely unpublicized, was also the launch of his F/W collection for the shoe couture line John Kenner, an export brand he designs and co-owns.

Introduced only last year, John Kenner attracted the attention of a French luxury label when it presented its first spring collection. The same fashion house has again expressed interest in Gaupo's footwear collection for fall. The designer, however, declined to name the fashion house at this time.

"We were initially reluctant at the offer since we wanted to promote John Kenner the brand," Gaupo explained. The highly reputed fashion house is interested in buying Gaupo's designs for their own label. "But we realized this can only be a good thing for us."

French bottines, or ankle-high boots, dominate the label's 45-piece collection, and they come in brocade, pony, snake, satin, or combinations of these materials. The narrow, stilt-high heels take cue from 18th-century Pompadour styles. Beadwork and embroidery have also become characteristic of John Kenner, and ornamentation is rife in this collection. One brocade pump has an ornately beaded heel imported from Italy.

Gaupo said they had received queries for John Kenner from buyers from Sydney, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong and even Milan, because of their participation at Manila F.A.M.E. Even his clothes generated interest in the foreign buyers.

"It's true that we don't have 'seasons' here, but that's how fashion works," he said. "You present your forecast for the coming season like they do in the West. It's all about the fabrics, the shapes. It's only when they know what you have next that they come to you."

The former Shanghai Tang designer presents his fall/winter forecasts, showing that the global mindset has become second nature

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Different is it!

HOW'S THIS FOR A BIT OF irony? Gorgeous models clad in vibrant couture pieces set against a lowly market place, or in this case, a rather tony Saturday Salcedo market.

There's definitely something surreal about statuesque Raya Mananquil posing beside a rack of organic vegetables.

What's the point, right? Well, besides creating a rather unusual and disjointed visual feast, the bottom line is to encourage one and all—you most especially—to dare to be different. Veer away from the herd and find ways to show your personality through fashion.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Okay, let's not get literal here. One simply does not wear a stunning couture piece to a weekend market, unless you're our very own Tessa "Sea Princess" Prieto-Valdes. But you certainly can pick up fashion cues from Tessa, as well as these market-bound beauties.

Stand out and stand tall by following any one of these practical but effective fashion tips:

Vivacious and vibrant

It's a no-brainer! One way to stand out is by donning bright-colored articles of clothing. Remember the Oscars? Amid the sea of neutrals and nudes, it was Salma Hayek in electric blue and Michelle Williams in canary yellow who stood out in the bejeweled crowd.

So, go ahead, turn heads and wear vibrant pieces that complement your skin tone and your personality. Keep it simple by choosing just one brightly hued item matched with your basics like white shorts or blue jeans. If you're not ready to take the colorful route, try donning vibrant bags and shoes to add a bit of punch to your neutral wardrobe.

Frills and thrills

Your basics wardrobe is dependable but potentially boring. Add a little oomph with the use of frilly, feminine details like ruffles.

An ordinary Polo shirt can look more enticing with an Edwardian collar, while a simple skirt can look more flirty with flounces upon flounces of ruffles. Just make sure the details accentuate your best features, instead of emphasizing your flaws. A collared ruffle can highlight a beautiful jawline and face, but a tiered skirt will only make big hips look even bigger.

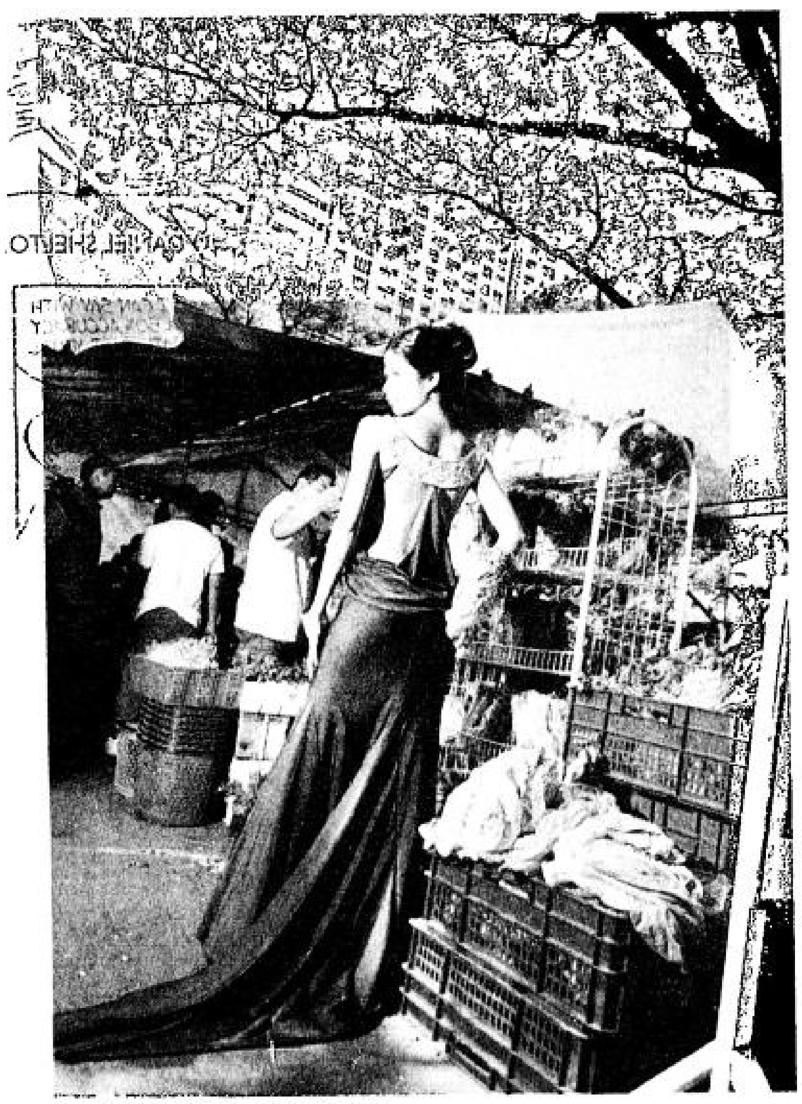
All in the details

One key to dressing well is creating a focal point that elevates your outfit from plain and simple to fashionably chic. You can use accessories like brooches or necklaces, or choose articles of clothing with little twists and details to achieve this.

An ordinary shift dress, for example, will look more interesting with an unexpected drape or tuck while a simple tee can be glamorized with the use of a multihued beaded necklace.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY KAI HUANG
STYLING MAUREEN DISINI
HAIR AND MAKEUP LOU BUNYI
OF EMPHASIS SALON USING BOBBI BROWN COSMETICS
MODELS RAYA MANANQUIL (PMAP)
AND LAUREN HUDSON (SOCIETY)
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE SALCEDO MARKET
(OPEN SATURDAYS, 7 A.M.-2 P.M.), JAIME VELASQUEZ PARK,
SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY
THANKS TO MARC MEDINA
AND BARANGAY CAPTAIN NENE LICHAUCO



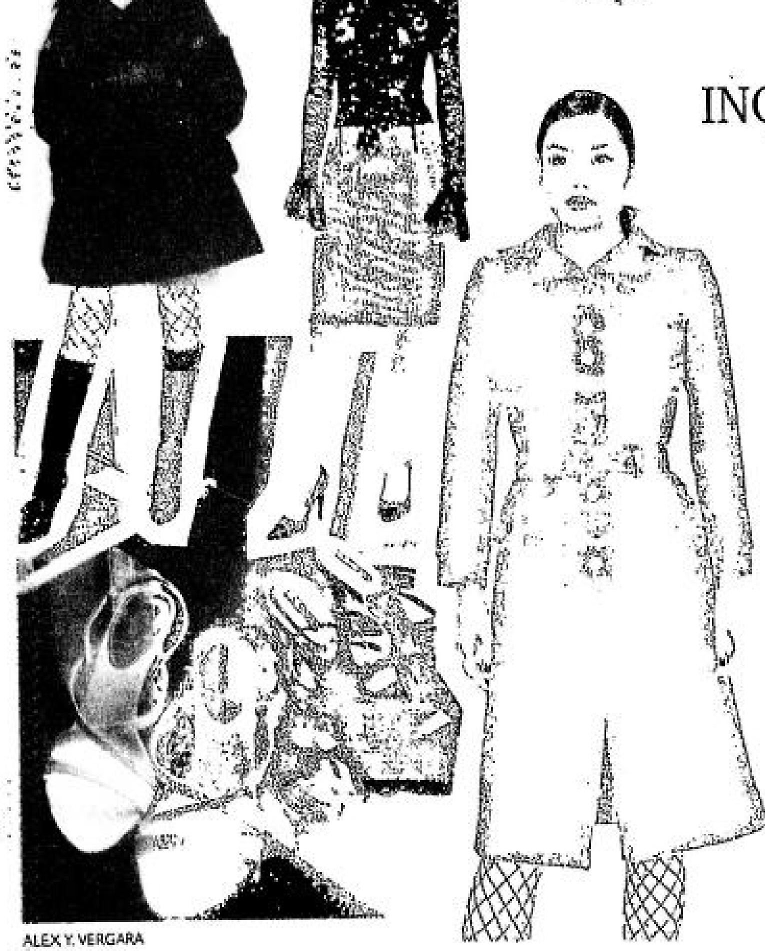
Seeing green... and blue
Blue gown by Jun Escario, silver bangle by Felicity

Missing Mel
Designer Mel Vergel de Dios passed away all too soon late last week. INQUIRER Fashion sends out a prayer for this creative soul, who will surely be missed. Yellow gown by Mel Vergel de Dios, gold earrings by China Doll, gold bracelet by Felicity, blue stilettos by Schu

Veer away from the herd and find ways to show your personality through fashion

Feminine frills
Orange gown by Jun Escario, drop earrings and rhinestone bracelet by Felicity

ALEX VERGARA



ALEX Y. VERGARA

ALEX VERGARA

INQUIRER FASHION FIRST

Autumn alert

By Alex Y. Vergara

Louis Vuitton's pre-fall collection by Marc Jacobs offered an unlikely mix of romantic and military inspirations

HOLD ON TO those metallic accessories! Beef up your wardrobe with wide belts and chunky high heels. And while you're at it, start investing in tapered, military-inspired dresses, lace skirts, cashmere sweaters and fishnet stockings.

Gold detailing in the form of buttons and buckles, nipped waists with leather belts (the wider the better) and an unlikely mix of romantic and military, feminine and masculine inspirations were very much evident in Louis Vuitton's pre-fall collection by Marc Jacobs. LV's latest pricey RTW numbers will start hitting its "global" stores the world over by June.

The Paris-based luxury brand recently gave regional journalists a sneak preview of what's in store for the chic LV woman in between the change in seasons. The 30-minute presentation at the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong was almost like a fashion show, as organizers tapped some of the territory's best models.

Jacobs again drew heavily from the '40s, '50 and '60s to fashion ultra-feminine yet sophisticated pieces that combined contrasting materials such as tweed, wool and cashmere with lace and chiffon. He also tapped into a rich vein of inspiration from iconic images of French actress Catherine Deneuve in the 1967 film "Belle de Jour."

The creative juxtaposition was also evident in his use of certain details such as chiffon and lace ruffles, leather and fox (not faux!) fur trims and epaulets. A rather boxy cropped jacket (also an LV staple) with military detailing and three-quarter sleeves was paired with a lace-up skirt to soften the look and give it a feminine touch.

The prevailing silhouette was decidedly close to the body, the better to cinch the waistline with a wide belt. Jacobs allowed room for some innovation by pairing soft romantic dresses, pencil and circle skirts with cashmere sweaters that had necklines ranging from the classic scoop to the reliable turtleneck.

Mix and match

Indeed, a good number of pieces were composed of separates that seemed to encourage mixing and matching. Jacobs is probably aware of the current market's penchant to go high-low (mixing designer gems with snappy mass brands to achieve a distinct, nonchalant look).

Rather than be alarmed by such a trend, LV's artistic director seemed to have willingly provided fashionistas, whether they have deep pockets and rich daddies or not, with a mother lode of ideas.

Take his beaded and embroidered corset with the trademark LV cap sleeves. Instead of fusing the evening piece with a skirt, he gave its wearer the option to wear the couture-like top with jeans for those countless occasions that require her to go "smart-casual."

Through ingenious cutting and the use of such exquisite details as monogrammed buttons and trims, he was able to imbue a number of supposedly casual pieces such as coat dresses and a three-quarter down jacket with an air of sophistication. It was reportedly the first time a designer was able to turn a supposedly bulky jacket made of down feathers into a chic article of luxury.

In keeping with the looming cold weather, Jacobs used mostly somber colors such as gray and black. But he wisely kept the mood light by including a couple of pieces in orange, fuchsia and periwinkle to the so-called bridge collection.

Bright hues

The bright hues are holdovers from LV's current spring-summer series consisting of bright, beaded and embroidered pieces inspired by Elvis Presley and the American southwest. LV's gold and coral necklaces were also given a fall makeover. From bright crimson, the items now come in dramatic black.

Since the brand's store in Manila won't be carrying the dresses, the main concern of not a few fashion-forward Filipino women is, of course, LV's shoes and bags.

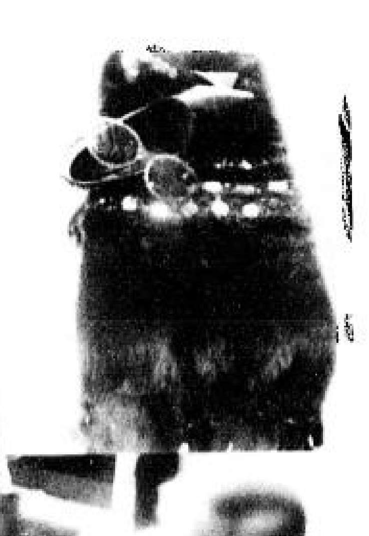
Many of the brand's shoes, including its thigh-high boots, have single and multiple buckles—another carryover element from summer. Most of LV's pumps have decidedly high heels (at least four inches), several of which come with thick soles.

For the first time in LV's history, the brand will be introducing a series of evening bags with coin-purse closures in brown, matte silver and multicolored. This time the brand's trademark monogram was hand-sewn on each bag.

But the season's must-have as far as bag junkies are concerned is LV's Global Shopper-inspired Speedy, made of suede and calf leather with an alligator trim on top. The front part has an updated version of the brand's logo stamped on vintage bags and trunks, which first came out in 1905.

Like most of LV's luxury wear, the bag, with its zippers and metallic details, exuded an expensive yet casual appeal.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



ALEX Y. VERGARA

Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Gateway, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, Festival SuperMall, The Power Plant, SM North Edsa and Ayala Center Cebu

Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto
LI STYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

Summer talk

The truth about teeth whitening

What do supermodels and A-list celebrities have in common? Pearly whites!

By Dr. Olivia Francisco
Contributor

ONCE AND FOR ALL, LET'S BE CLEAR about why and how teeth get stained. Just as our body is protected by soft skin, teeth are protected with enamel which is harder than bone.

Whatever goes through your mouth—food, drinks, smoke—accumulates and forms a pellicle film that coats the enamel of your teeth.

This pellicle film is what we try to remove when we brush our teeth. But because this film will not give up easy, no matter how we wear off our teeth with "too much" brushing, it is wise to surrender to the twice-a-year (minimum) regular professional cleaning (oral prophylaxis) with your friendly dentist.

The problem is, mechanical cleaning (brushing and oral prophylaxis) can only remove mechanically attached food and stains. For example, flossing and brushing are able to release food bits and soft coating stuck to the teeth, while oral prophylaxis takes out hardened, cement-like coatings and dark-colored stains from smoking and, yes, coffee and tea (hot or iced)!

The even bigger problem relates to the enamel layers' structure, which, when viewed microscopically, looks like a beehive. It is porous. So no matter how regularly you remove the mechanically attached stains, tinier particles are strained through and seep deeper into the enamel surface where they cannot be removed by brushing nor professional cleaning.

At this point, your teeth acquire a yellowish tinge. And that doesn't mean they are strong (like what they always say) or weak, but it is definitely unattractive!

Oxidation

Now, take a deep breath and don't panic. May I introduce to you tooth whitening.

Tooth whiteners are chemicals which get inside the enamel of our teeth to set off a reaction called oxidation. Oxidation breaks down the stains into particles small enough to be released from the enamel hive. Voila! Now you've got a beautiful smile.

So now you probably want to know how it's done and what your options are. Bleach-wise, I will give you two options. Let us start with in-office whitening/bleaching, otherwise known as laser, power, chair-side or—why not?—supermega bleaching for all seasons.

Kidding aside, it's given so many names because, seriously, it gives the best results. Only licensed practitioners, otherwise called dentists, are allowed to use this whitening system.

Before tooth whitening, professional cleaning is necessary. Fillings and the health of your gums are carefully checked.

The procedure includes the application of a protective barrier over the gums. Most dentist-administered systems use 15-35 percent hydrogen peroxide gels activated by a high-intensity laser to start off the bleaching chemical reaction. The number of sessions may vary according to your dentists' discretion. This process can achieve results of about four to eight shades lighter after only one hour of treatment.

At-home whitening/bleaching, your second choice, will often have 9 percent hydrogen peroxide or 10-20 percent carbamide peroxide. Carbamide peroxide splits into hydrogen peroxide and urea in the mouth (hydrogen peroxide being the active whitening in-

THE TRUTH/ E2

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ORNUSA Cadness in Hot Pink undergarments available at Rustan's

Summer self-improvement

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

THERE IS SOMETHING I hate hearing: "You're so thin!"

I guess my weight has always been my insecurity. Some people say it's better than being fat, but I honestly think it is just the same thing. When it's family members and close friends who tell me, I'm okay with it. But when it's people I'm not close to or, worse, I hardly even know, I have to bite my tongue so as not to answer back. But sometimes I must admit I do answer back, in my head.

I figured we all have our own insecurities, and the worst is when people point it out. Isn't it true that it is better to keep silent when you have nothing good to say?

At least try to help me. Send me some food. I would actually appreciate it because I am not on a diet, and free food would lessen the grocery bill. What I'm trying to say is if there is a problem and you don't have an effective solution, just leave it!

So anyway, in my efforts to try and gain much-needed weight, I have resorted to eating five meals a day plus swimming. It is a good exercise, and there is something about people who actually do some aerobic exercise. Aerobic people may be thin but they are not gaunt-looking. They look lean, which is my goal. The downside is, I have to be under the sun… not my most favorite thing!

Before sunning

Let me share with you some rituals I do before braving the sun… and chlorine. First, I try to protect my hair with Red Vine Hair Protecting Spray, which is available at Essenses. It has water-resistant UV filters that actually protect my colored hair.

What I also love to do is I sometimes apply conditioner so my hair won't get too dry. A swimming cap also would be smart to use but seriously, who wants to use one? I don't, because wearing one is hot and I end up getting a headache. Even on the beach, putting some conditioner when tanning is needed. Better yet, spray leave-on conditioner regularly.

Second is, of course, slathering myself with SPF. At the moment, I use VMV's SPF 15 lotion all over my body. It's light and not sticky. I use Clarins' Facial Sun Protection Stick or Nivea's Face Sunblock Moisturizing Cream on my face. Rinse off right after. My friend actually lent me Keihl's Hair and Body shampoo, which takes out chlorine—it was such a treat.

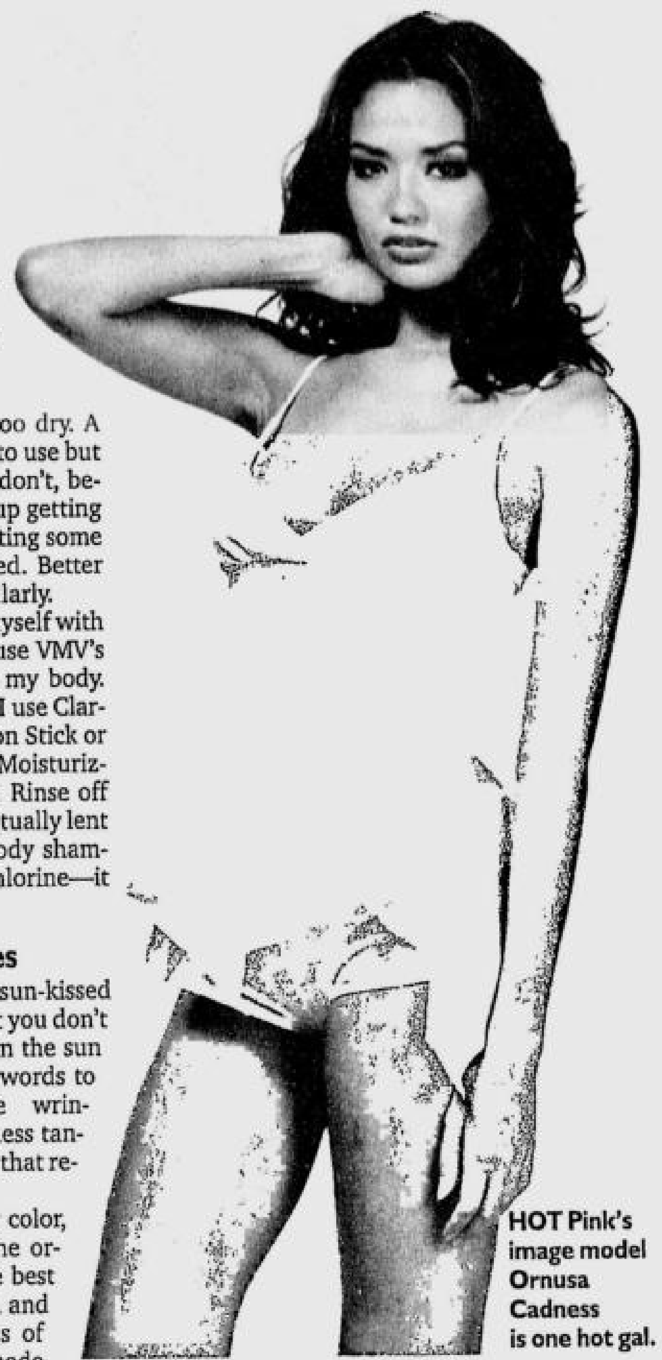
Premature wrinkles

It's summer and a sun-kissed skin is definitely in, but you don't have to actually bask in the sun to get that glow. Two words to remember—premature wrinkles. Shiseido has sunless tanning made for the face that really works.

Not only do you end up getting color, but you actually get a tan, not the orange color! I think I would be the best judge since I have fair complexion and I have been a victim many times of sunless tanning products that made me look like a carrot. Not attractive at all.

I also like Clarins' sunless tanning line and I'm recently enjoying Guerlain's new line. When I get to try products that deliver, it makes me so happy because it means I don't have to brave the sun to get a glow. But if you do like tanning, at least tan responsibly. Which means do spread on some SPF at least every 30 minutes.

When I see pictures of girls who have really beautiful bodies I get inspired to work on mine. We each have something we can do for ourselves, why not start now? So even if I know I will never have the body of Ornusa Cadness in her Hot Pink campaign, beautiful bodies make me aspire for the better. And they may also serve as an inspiration.


HOT Pink's image model Ornusa Cadness is one hot gal.

I guess we all have our own insecurities. But we can all work on relieving them. If your insecurity is something you can't change, then it would be best to accentuate your assets.

It is bikini season, and it's either you hibernate and stay in or try to get fit. Whether it means trying to gain some mass or losing some pounds, doing something about your body is a good thing. And summer is as good a season as any to improve oneself.

The truth about teeth whitening

From page E1

NATALIA Vodianova

gredient). Small concentrations of hydrogen peroxide work at par with higher concentrations of carbamide peroxide (3.6 percent hydrogen peroxide is equivalent to 10 percent carbamide peroxide).

At-home bleaching includes the use of trays to hold the bleaching gel in place. Make sure your at-home system includes a barrier gel to prevent the bleaching agent from getting to your gums. The tray is worn for at least one hour while watching TV or reading a book. Most whitening occur after one or two weeks. In difficult cases, the process can take up to six weeks.

SUPERMODEL Petra Nemcova

Combining in-office and at-home systems can lighten your teeth by up to 12-15 shades for most patients. For others, it may not make a complete color change but will lighten the existing shade.

Sensitivity

And, yes, beauty has its price. Most patients will experience short-term sensitivity. In my practice, I've observed this to last for about 24 hours after treatment. Still, the general health risks of bleaching are minimal as far as your body is concerned. Applications are controlled so that you don't swallow hydrogen peroxide.

These procedures are considered safe and effective when monitored by a dentist. However, you may receive prescription fluoride gels from your dentist to help further protect your teeth.

A consultation is always important to determine if your teeth can be bleached. Some teeth can be less receptive to bleaching. In other cases, the dentist can modify treatment and procedures for those having difficulty acquiring optimal results.

Bleaching is effective in lightening most stains caused by smoking, coffee and tea. Other types of stains, such as those produced by tetracycline use, respond to bleaching less reliably. The effects of lightening can last up to three years. Nevertheless, this will vary from person to person.

Again, not all patients can undergo bleaching. In this case, your dentist can help you explore other cosmetic dental options like veneers/laminates, porcelain crowns, composite fillings.

My dance teacher used to say, "When in doubt, smile." I say, "If only to smile, flash a good one!" It will bring you good joy.

Dr. Olivia Francisco holds clinic at The Dental Place, Corinthian Plaza building (across Greenbelt 1 and Asian Institute of Management), Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Call 8128891.

GISELE Bundchen

CUT & KEEP

AFTER

Choosing the right base

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan

Find a base that is specifically for your skin type, and you're on your way to drop-dead gorgeous skin

THE RIGHT PRODUCT CAN transform healthy skin into drop-dead gorgeous skin.

The right base can camouflage imperfection and create a flawless canvas. But finding the right base for your skin type or skin color can be very, very tricky.

So what is the easiest and best way to find our true match? How do we know what will work best for us?

It's actually quite simple. Find a base that is specifically for your skin type.

The first step is to analyze your skin. What is your color? Are you fair, medium or dark? When choosing the color, it is better to shop with a clean, bare face.

Apply a small amount along your jawline so you can make sure the base matches your face and neck. Testing the color on your inner wrist is a no-no, because the color of our wrist is entirely different from our face.

After applying, borrow a mirror and stand near a doorway or step outside of the store and examine your skin in natural light. If you found the right shade, the color will disappear and blend perfectly with your skin. You should not be able to point out the base from the skin.

The second step is knowing your skin type. Are you oily, combination or dry skin? If you have oily skin, look for words like "oil control" or "oil-free" on your liquid or powder base. For normal coverage, smooth it only where your skin is uneven and set it with powder.

Oil-free liquids tend to produce the most natural effect. Some oil-free bases even contain salicylic acid to combat acne.

For combination skin, cream to powder base works particularly well. Newer balancing formulations designed for combination skin include powder to absorb oil and moisturizer for dry patches.

For dry skin, look for words like "hydrating" or "moisture rich" on the label. Liquid foundation is the best because it hides flaky skin, but make sure it has a water-base and oil formulation. Purely water base can emphasize dry skin. Hydrating foundation gives the skin a subtle glow.

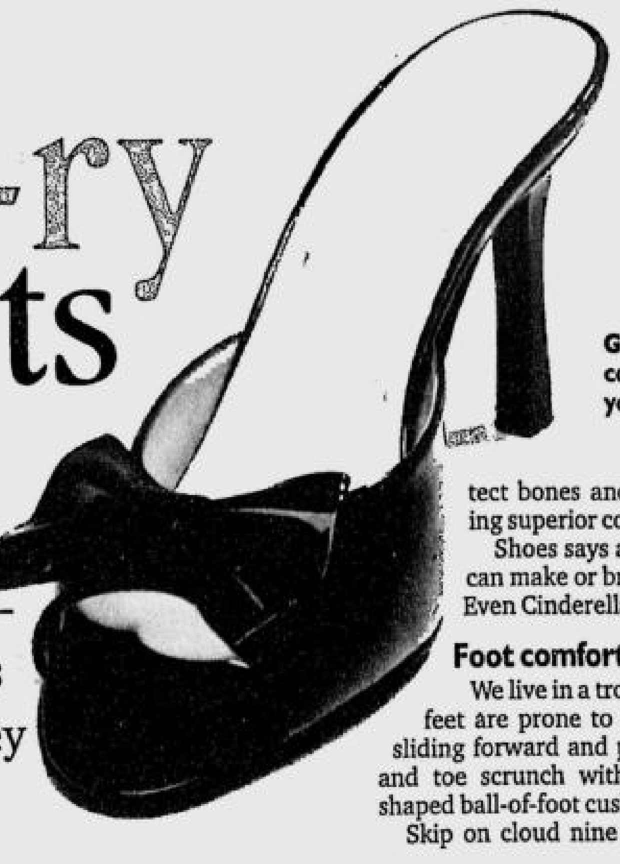
BEFORE

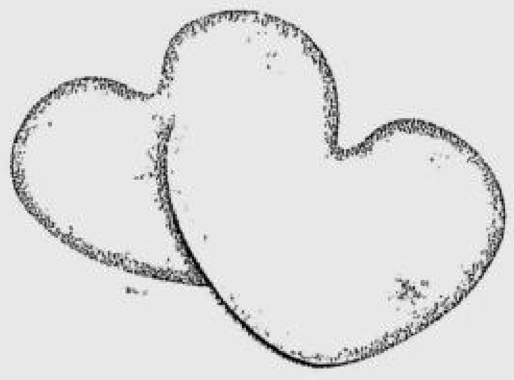
Whichever makeup you decide to choose, be sure to use the ideal shade and formulation for your skin. The bottom line is, have fun with it and know what suits you best.

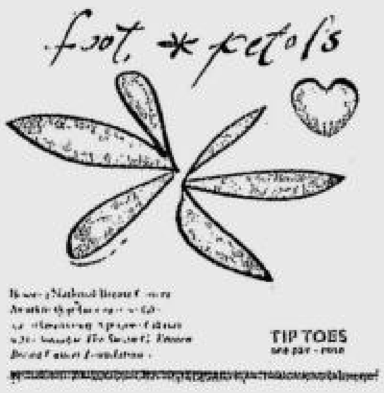
Star-ry secrets

Fashion Tape, Foot Petals, Tag Tamers—your fave celebrities have them. Now they can be yours, too

By San-J Valenton
Contributor


GIVE some comfort to your sole.


SHOW your heels some love with Foot Petals.



ARE YOU THE TYPE WHO PUTS fashion first before comfort?

If you are guilty of that, welcome to the club!

Since we speak the same language, allow me to share with you the secret to looking stellar from head to foot.

Someone once said that true beauty manifests from within. It's either you are wearing the right underwear or attitude. But whichever angle you're gazing from, it's worthwhile to know what lies beneath the surface.

In this case, it is a fashionable innovative solution called Hollywood Fashion Tape and Foot Petals.

Hollywood Fashion Tape is the stars' secret to always looking perfectly put together and is very handy during fashion emergencies.

Imagine a nearly invisible, fabric-friendly, hypo-allergenic tape, strong enough to hold your clothes in place and yet gentle on your skin.

I remember the first time I assisted a friend in styling a shoot. The model had to readjust her outfit using a double-adhesive tape purchased from a bookstore. When the shoot was over, the tape would not get off her skin and she spent almost an hour with smeared lotion on in order to remove the tape residue. It was a waste of time, leaving the model and her skin irritated.

You can now kiss away those afflictions, plunging neck-line and underwear peek-a-boos, gapping blouse fronts, slipping straps and constant tugging on strapless tops goodbye, and say hello to painless-to-adhere body jewels. It is also the best traveling companion, able to brace and alter the hem of your pants and hold those missing buttons faster than a needle or thread.

Remember the green floral Versace dress that redefined J. Lo? The frontal design plunged down to her navel, making it seem impossible for movement. The Hollywood Fashion Tape did the job of keeping it in place as she confidently struck a pose for the photographers.

So whether you're a star walking down the red carpet or a blushing bride about to walk down the aisle, a teener planning to dance till dawn at the prom or at the hippest club in town, or a new grad applying for that much awaited interview then proceeding to a special date right after, the Hollywood Fashion Tape is with you during those special occasions.

Convenient cover

There's more! The Hollywood Fashion Tape can put a leash on those itchy and scratchy sewn-in label tags off your back, thanks to a product called Hollywood Tag Tamers.

Hollywood Tag Tamers is a clear, adhesive-backed cushiony textured tape that conveniently covers the label (even if you're wearing someone famous). It hurts to cut out the name behind the outfit, often leaving a hole in that spot. The tags are also important for washing instructions.

I had a boss who would get infuriated with those itchy little ones, causing redness to her sensitive skin. She would often ask me to cut off the tag, and as cautious as I was, the resulting hole would be an eyesore. Hollywood Tag Tamers can put a halt to that. It is clothes-friendly, and a nifty gift to lavish upon.

And while the Hollywood Fashion Tape helps keep your clothes on, let those sexy shoes do the talking, I mean walking.

Step in style using Foot Petals. A sole-saving padded stick-on insert for shoes that is made of Poron (Performance Urethanes), Foot Petals are cushions that effectively absorb step shock, help stop friction, prevent blisters and calluses from forming, and protect bones and tissue while providing superior comfort to your feet.

Shoes says a lot about a person. It can make or break a smashing outfit. Even Cinderella can attest to that.

Foot comforts

We live in a tropical country, thus our feet are prone to sweat. Stop feet from sliding forward and prevent ugly overhang and toe scrunch with Tip Toes, a flower-shaped ball-of-foot cushion.

Skip on cloud nine with Heavenly Heelz, which helps keep heels from slipping in and out of your shoes and help anticipate blisters. It can be worn at the inside top of a mule, boot or slide to ease friction, or help with the sizing of that newly bought pair of shoes.

Your favorite top is not the only one with slippery straps. Strappy Strips can prevent those sling backs and thongs from falling off and blistering your beautiful feet.

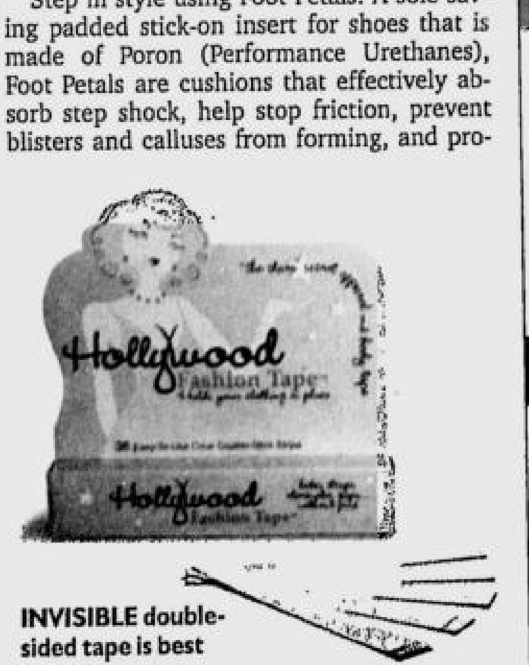
To save your insole, Killer Kushionz can provide remedy to those killer shoes. This can be worn in open-toe shoes and sandals.

Meet the match of your haute couture. Haute Heelz is a soothing heel cushion that helps absorb shocks to the heels, legs and lower back. A perfect fit to your sexiest shoes.

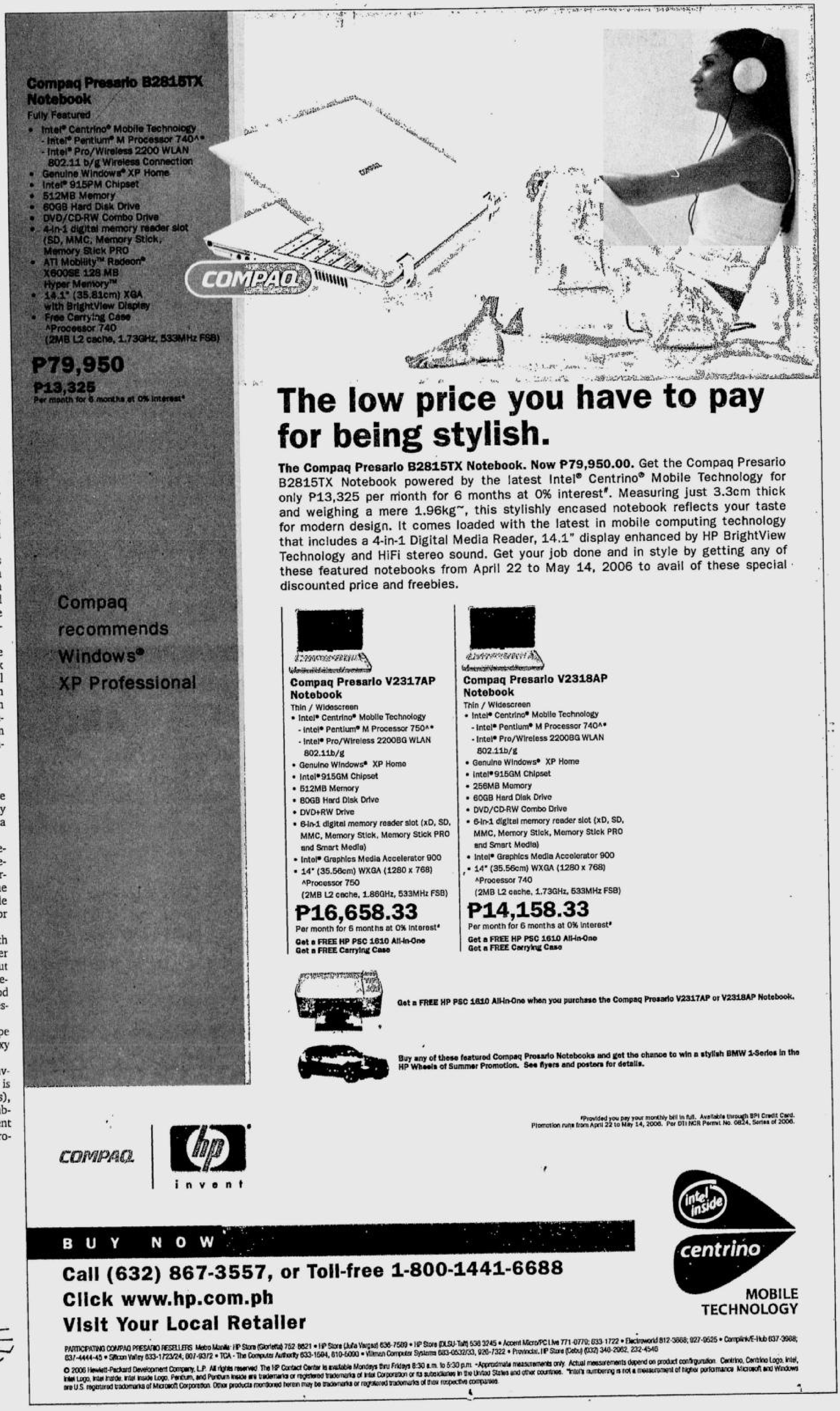
Strut your stuff safely with Sole Stopperz. It is a fashionable solution to protecting your outer soles and preventing you from slipping on wet or sticky surfaces.

Foot Petals are available in different colors and patterns to match or complement your shoe fetish.

Now that these secrets have been revealed, head on to Beauty Bar and revel in them. If you can't be a star, at least feel like one.



INVISIBLE double-sided tape is best for plunging tops.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HARDCORE DARK UNDERARM SOLUTION

Belowhite may be the Holy Grail cure for chronic dark armpits

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THERE HAS BEEN A DEMAND FOR body-whitening products lately, as you may have noticed the trend in my summer articles.

But a particular body part deserves a full article. This is because even the fairest of Asian skin is not immune to dark underarms, still the main concern of most of my letter writers.

It may be true that the market is loaded with whitening products for the underarm, but these either don't work fast enough or only do so much.

Those considered "safe" enough to be sold to the public are best only for mild cases. If your dark-pit problem is severe, the only way to go is dramatic medication.

The Belo Medical Group has given me access to its pharmacy, and there I discovered the Holy Grail cure for chronic dark underarm syndrome. It is called Belowhite, a steroid-based cream that shows obvious lightening results in a week's time. My excited test subject put it on one pit for a week and it was visibly lighter shortly.

The catch? 1) Consultation with the in-house doctor is mandatory (consultation fee is P450) before one can procure the product. The reason for this is that the clinic has to conduct a skin test as the formula is very potent and there is a big chance that the subject will be allergic to it. 2) You can only use it for three weeks straight (day and night, twice a day), then you must take a break for a month. You can resume use for another three weeks straight then take a break again if you still have not obtained the shade of lightness you want.

Make sure you count right; mark your calendar. If you persist beyond the three weeks straight, the treated area will atrophy. It will itch like crazy, sting, and turn reddish brown, and you may get chicken skin.

During the break, you may use the clinic's combination of Kojic Acid and Tyrosinase inhibitor cream to continue the lightening process though at a slower rate. This will also require a skin test as there are still some people who may be allergic to the formula.

If I were you, have yourself tested for both Belowhite and K & T on the first day to save yourself the extra trip and consultation fee.

Clients found to be allergic to Belowhite are usually prescribed K & T. But those who are found to be allergic to that will have the B complex Hydroquinone 4% cream or Skin Lightening Cream as their next option.

I am also a fan of the Belo clinic's hair-removal waxing treatments with bleach for the underarm and bikini line area. They even offer this service for knees and elbows.

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GODIVA with Licorice whitening deodorant

Ditch deodorants

Will the result stay on? If you do things right, it will!

First in the maintenance plan is to ditch the deodorant/antiperspirant you were using as it may be the culprit in darkening your armpits. Instead, use the whitening deodorants available in the market.

I am a firm believer in Godiva antiperspirant/deodorant, Nivea Whitening Night Cream deodorant and Block and White deodorant stick.

Please bear in mind that I have not tried all available whitening deodorants in the market, so if the brand you are eyeing is not in this article it does not mean it doesn't work.

Tips: During treatment, wait five minutes to allow cream to dry before applying deodorant over armpits.

Godiva owner Carleen Reyes told me that there is a finding that the best time to apply your deodorant/antiperspirant is after showering at night.

Even when you forget to put it the next morning, you are protected the whole day from odor and wetness.

Godiva's skin station also offers Diamond Peel Microdermabrasion for the underarms, which helps even out the area's skin tone by exfoliating the upper layer.

Promo: Godiva Skin Station is offering warts removal for P500 per area until the end of April. This is pretty cheap compared to others that charge from P2,000 to P4,000 per area. Warts are commonly found on the face, neck, chest, shoulders and feet. Topical anesthesia will of course be provided.

For Belo inquiries, call 8442939 or e-mail info@belomed.com. For Godiva Skin Station appointments, call 7516140.

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Anti-ageing
Increases energy
Enhances blood circulation
Enhances metabolism

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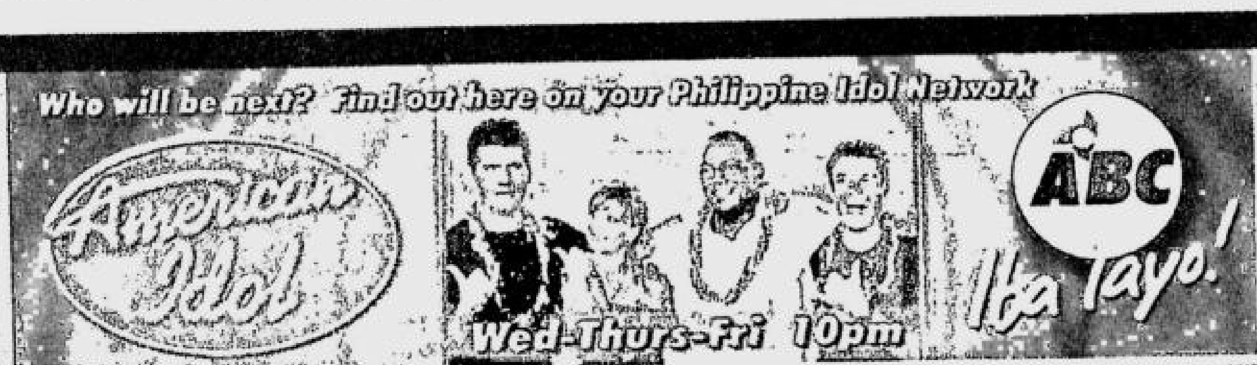
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Friday April 28, 2006



Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)	National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Something About Miriam		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Panday	Wonderful Life		Gudtaym			Insider
AXN		Sports Disaster VI		Train Wrecks		Fear Factor (Season V)		The 4400		PSI Factor (Season III)		WRC 2006: Rally XS	E Buzz	Blue Streak				Excess Baggage	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door				Power Rangers Wild Force		Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel				Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Estima Buen Story				So Happy Together				Kiss Mo Ko				Ira				The Crusaders	
Cinemax	The Last Hurrah (2:40 PM)				Look Who's Talking Now				The Nugget (6:20 PM)			Passenger 57			Above The Law (9:20 PM)			Real Genius	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Takedown	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel		Extreme Engineering		Titanic Birth Of A Legend		Beyond Tomorrow		Stay Alive		Rides		American Chopper		Beyond Tomorrow		Psychic Witness		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unstalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven That's So Trendy Week	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Motorsport Asia	Major League Baseball Thurs: Devil Rays @ Yankees						The Open Champs - The 51 Worlds	LPGA Golf Fields Open In Hawaii 1st rd.				Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thurs: Devil Rays @ Yankees				
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code The Natural Law	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Possible	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royal Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters IV (3:15 PM)		Thicker Than Water (4:05 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law III		Missing II		Hustle		The Case Of The Whitechapel Vampire			Hustle (11:45PM)
HBO		Walking Tall (3:15 PM)					Deadly Visions			Sk, The Mark Unleashed				The Chronicles Of Riddick				The Enemy Within	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Enjoy Ladies 9 Ball C'ship						Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV			Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style		Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Interiors By Design		Dumpling Cents	Food Network Special		Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	Pop Inc.		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits		Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV News	MTV Hits	MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	Rex in the City	MTV Hits	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG		Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Motorsport Asia		Explorations Powered By Duracell Primal Fear	Rough Trades	Earth Shocks: Mega Volcano		Top 5 - About China		Weird Journey Into Amazonia: Waterworlds		About Asia		National Geographic Special: Dragons		Explorations Powered By Duracell Mood Food	Rough Trades	Innovation	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap.	Dong Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Barangay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon				My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tatlong Anak, Isang Ama				Tol Ako Naman				Saw (Dubbed In Tagalog)				Fight Night 5				Tatarin
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenfix	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Noel	Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	Arangkada Extra Balita	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		Shopnets Video		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports						Swatch World Tour Women's Finals Salvador '05			BP Mtn Bike Tour 2	Sagupaan	NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs					Sportsdesk	Denmark Open Women's Doubles Finals	
Sports Plus						Subway Fresh 500 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	Rookie Manual	BD Las Vegas	Wild Side	FIFA Preview Series 11	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Zurich Classic of New Orleans Day 1
Star Movies				Nature Unleashed Fire			Jeepers Creepers 2				Gothika (7:10 PM)			Ladder 49				The Rocketeer (10:55PM)	
Star World	8 Simple Rules/Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Dance Idol	Masked Rider Ryuki				Batman Beyond	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

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LUFTHANSA PHILIPPINES

25 years of linking Filipinos to the world

Lufthansa German Airlines has marked its 25 years of presence in the Philippine skies with many firsts. Wisdom gained from its years of experience has enabled the company to swiftly expand its services and add more flights to better transport its valued passengers

Messages

Congratulations to Lufthansa German Airlines on its 25th anniversary.

Your continued presence in the Philippines is a testament to your faith in our country and our people.

It is this trust and support for our programs that strengthen our resolve to work harder for the good of the Filipino people.

Lufthansa's presence in the Philippines is a clear message to the world that our nation has sound financial underpinnings and is poised to achieve global recognition for its ability to partner with world-class companies in the pursuit of excellence.

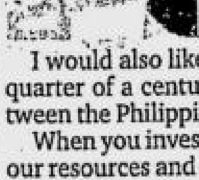
I would also like to thank Lufthansa for maintaining its business in the Philippines for more than a quarter of a century and for continuing to explore and expand tourism and trade opportunities between the Philippines, Germany and the most parts of Europe.

When you invest your company's resources and people in this country, you also invest in our people, our resources and our culture. For this, I must truly thank you.

I wish Lufthansa success in all its endeavors.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



Warmest congratulations to Lufthansa German Airlines on their silver anniversary.

Lufthansa has truly been a reliable partner in bringing the best of the Philippines to the attention of the greater European community. It continues to provide vast opportunities for trade and tourism to flourish, not only between Germany and the Philippines, but also to most parts of Europe.

It is our hope that Lufthansa will continue to soar and remain our active partner in tourism. Mabuhay!

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary, Department of Tourism

I would like to congratulate Lufthansa German Airlines on its 25th year of doing business in the Philippines.

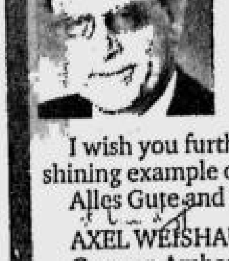
The Philippines is a very important destination for businessmen and tourists from Germany and Europe and it is very convenient that Lufthansa is servicing the Philippines, providing all of us with safe, reliable, and comfortable travel opportunities from and to Europe.

I would also like to commend Lufthansa for honoring the best of German values and traditions. Lufthansa has shown outstanding corporate responsibility during its 25 years of operation in the Philippines.

I wish you further success here in the Philippines, and I am confident that you will continue to be a shining example of the worldwide acknowledged quality label "Made in Germany."

Alles Gute and Mabuhay!

AXEL WEISHAUPT
German Ambassador



Here's to our 25th anniversary!

We at Lufthansa are truly blessed to look back at a successful history in the Philippines. During the past quarter of a century, we were able to build a deep friendship with the Filipinos.

We are especially glad that we had a chance to contribute to the economic growth of the country by providing vital connections for business and leisure travelers. Our flights also facilitated the ever growing exchange of goods. It is an honor for us to provide a strong link between the Philippines and Germany, in fact, between the Philippines and the world. We will continue to be your reliable partner in the future.

We look forward to serving you for the next twenty-five years and indeed many more years to come.

CHRIS ZIMMER
General Manager

By Marlet D. Salazar

AMID THE BUSTLING ECONOMIC activity in the Philippines in the early 1980s, German airline Lufthansa took on a venture that linked Manila to other European destinations which, in the process, opened more doors of opportunity for business, trade, and tourism.

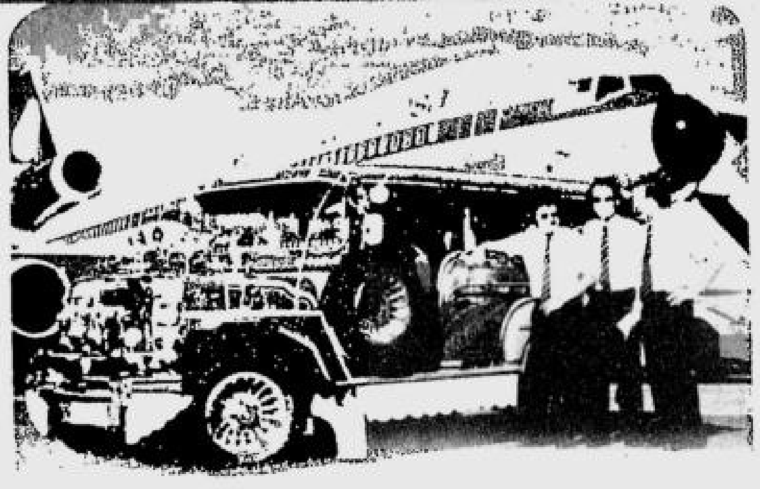
Lufthansa German Airlines has marked its 25 years of presence in the Philippine skies with many firsts. Wisdom gained from its years of experience has enabled the company to swiftly expand its services and add more flights to better transport its valued passengers.

In 1981 Lufthansa first touched down on Philippine soil and connected Frankfurt to Manila with a direct, twice-weekly flight.

The country's commercial trade within the Asian region began to improve, making the prospect of trade and tourism promising. With German expertise considered as a pillar in aviation technology, Lufthansa not only increased its passenger and cargo flights but also strengthened its fleet with the acquisition of state-of-the-art aircraft over the years.

Demand for passenger transportation in the Philippines continuously increased during the '80s mainly because of the economic growth as well as the surge of other new markets for the airline industry.

In the first quarter of 1987, Lufthansa established Boeing operations in Manila with the 747-200 aircraft. Less than a year later, it began to serve three weekly flights and eventually added a fourth. In mid-1989, Lufthansa became the only airline within months of the delivery of Boeing 747-400 to introduce this state of the art, long-haul aircraft into scheduled service to the Philippines.



From its historic initial flight schedule with a DC10 aircraft that operated nearly 18 hours from Frankfurt via Karachi and Bangkok, it now flies daily from Manila to Frankfurt via Guangzhou, China with an Airbus 340-600, currently the world's longest passenger aircraft.

Lufthansa is a fully privatized group of companies offering air transport services including passenger airlines, tourism, logistics, flight catering, aircraft maintenance, and information technology.

Early days

Before Lufthansa flights were introduced and an office was established in Manila, the airline was represented by a General Sales Agent. Up from 17 people who helped establish the local headquarters, it now employs more than 30, who work in passenger service and ticketing centers, accounting, marketing, and sales departments, as well as the airport office.

The Allied Bank building in Ayala Avenue, Makati was witness to the early beginnings of Lufthansa in the country. In 1983, the office moved to Legaspi Park View Condominium, Legaspi Village, Makati. Lufthansa's main office is now housed at the Phinma Building in Rockwell Drive, since 2004.

Traveler's choice

Lufthansa has become the airline of choice for most people travelling to Europe. Travelling in Europe has somewhat become synonymous with the German airline. It boasts top-of-the-line service and ease of flying for both business and economy class.

The name goes with trust and quality. Lufthansa pays great attention to personalized and excellent service.

Lufthansa possesses the long-term expertise required to offer

LINKING/ F2

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Making travel a pleasure

Lufthansa constantly develops innovative services on the ground and in the air

BEING A CUSTOMER-FOCUSED AIRLINE, Lufthansa provides one of the highest standards of service in the industry, and constantly thinks of new ways to further enhance its product, both in the air and on the ground, for the benefit of its passengers.

Its quality service and innovative products are acknowledged by customers and critics alike. The airline continues to receive awards such as Best Airline in German Domestic and European Air Traffic and Best Service on the Ground in German Domestic and European Air Traffic by the readers of renowned magazine, Business Traveller Germany. Other awards include the Most Innovative Airline by Travel Savvy magazine of the United States, and the Five Star Diamond Award by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences.

The airline reiterates its commitment to passenger comfort as evidenced by its services on the ground and onboard.

Electronic reservations for Lufthansa flights can be made through etix. An electronic, and therefore paperless, ticket is stored in the airline's computer system. It makes travel easier for the passenger, as the "ticket" cannot be lost or forgotten.

In major airports, especially within Europe, Lufthansa passengers can check in quickly and easily at any Quick Check-in machine with or without baggage. This eliminates the need to queue up at check-in counters and helps passengers to use their time at the airport at their own convenience.

Because most of Lufthansa's passengers belong to the corporate world, it has recently introduced FlyNet. It is the world's first airline to offer wireless Internet access on long-haul flights. Business travellers working on an important business deal can receive and send e-mails while still on board. FlyNet is available in all classes of service.

On intercontinental routes, Lufthansa's Business Class offers the longest lie-flat seat in its class at 2.02m. Passengers can adjust the seat to their preferred position for working, relaxing, or sleeping, and thanks to a memory feature, the preferred position can always be restored. Moreover, the seat comes with an audio-video on demand entertainment system and even a massage function.

After arrival at Lufthansa's Frankfurt and Munich hubs, travellers can expect a warm welcome from the airline. Lufthansa's Welcome Service aims to assist international passengers by providing information about ticket inquiries, baggage claim, transit schedules, departure gates or other airport facilities. To help overcome cultural and language barriers, native service professionals are stationed at the arrival area to welcome incoming passengers from Asia-Pacific, including Manila, as well as from Arabic-speaking countries and other regions complete with welcome banners in their own language.

Welcome Service is just one of the company's ideas aimed to make travel as comfortable as possible for passengers from foreign countries. Other initiatives include regional meals, local magazines, newspapers, and even movies.

Lufthansa's main hubs in Frankfurt and Munich are known for their efficient on-time performance which is ideal not just for people visiting Germany but also for passengers with connecting flights. The airline's latest innovations include Lufthansa Private Jet, a service for travellers with a tight schedule who are going to destinations without scheduled passenger flights. Rather than flying to an airport and taking a long car or train ride from there, Lufthansa Private Jet offers them the convenience of having an exclusive jet ready for them at their preferred time to more than 1,000 destinations across Europe. The service can be booked as a connecting sector when arriving in Frankfurt or Munich from an international flight, or as a stand-alone flight.

HON Circle Members and First Class passengers have exclusive access to the acclaimed Lufthansa First Class Terminal in Frankfurt. A sophisticated departure building for the discerning traveller, the complex provides exclusive working, relaxing and dining areas. A personal assistant takes care of all check-in and immigration matters, and come boarding time, the passenger is whisked to the aircraft individually in a Mercedes or Porsche limousine.

Lufthansa unveils all new 'PrivateBed'

LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES-Philippines has unveiled innovations designed to set new benchmarks in air travel starting with the introduction of its new Business Class product, the PrivateBed and a shift from Boeing 747-400 to the ultra modern Airbus A340-600.

"We are introducing changes that are designed to set new standards in air travel. A new Business Class product, new aircraft and changes in our route structure affirm Lufthansa's commitment to excellence and a new standard in business travel," announced Lufthansa's new general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia Christopher Zimmer.

Lufthansa unveils the all new PrivateBed on business class to and from Manila. A state-of-the-art business class seat, PrivateBed boasts of features not found on other airlines. Lufthansa's PrivateBed comes equipped with a 10.4" personal video screen and laptop connection, FlyNet, the first ever in-flight Internet service, the Shape System that allows for sitting or sleeping position with a press of a button, 150 cms of seat pitch, and a seat length of two meters combined with a nine-degree incline that allows passengers to stretch out and lie flat.

"The design of our new PrivateBed increases the distance between seats. More importantly though, the seat itself adapts to the body shape of the individual passenger which provides more comfort. The PrivateBed also allows for an angle of up to nine degrees to the floor which transforms it into a flat bed. Our surveys told us that stretching out fully when sleeping is the most important issue for passengers," Zimmer explained.

Other features of the PrivateBed include retractable armrests that provide ample room for shoulders and arms, integrated back massage function, privacy provided by "virtual blinkers" on monitors, integrated foldaway privacy screen, individual reading lamps, a larger retractable, swiveling worktable, storage pockets for laptops and headphones, and a cupboard for shoe storage.

PrivateBed will continue to feature Lufthansa Media World In-Flight entertainment offering a selection of music, films, audio books, travel information, language courses, and an extensive menu of games using state-of-the-art audio/video on demand system, as well as new headphones with active noise cancellation.

The much talked-about FlyNet high-speed in-flight Internet access is now a staple in Lufthansa's business class. Lufthansa is the first airline in the world to equip its long haul fleet with his new and innovative broadband technology.

The PrivateBed complements Lufthansa's famous in-flight service. Zimmer said business class passengers will continue to enjoy three-star menus and an outstanding wine list. "Our business class passengers can also look forward to special seasonal or route-specific menus and drinks," he said.

Lufthansa was awarded the Five Star Diamond Award by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences last year.

The shift in aircraft utilization from B747-400 to Airbus 340-600 also highlights Lufthansa's continuing thrust to provide better products and services. The shift in aircraft utilization also heralds changes in the airlines' route structure.

Aside from daily flights to Frankfurt, Lufthansa will now have technical stops in Canton, China.

Lufthansa has been serving the Philippines market since 1981 and is the only European carrier with the best onward connections from Asia to anywhere in Europe via Frankfurt, Germany.

25 years of linking

From page F1

its passengers the highest level of quality and consistent service. It has expanded its business operations to include services that are directly related to the quality of its main products including aircraft maintenance and on-board meals.

Strength in the region

Lufthansa's market leadership is translated to providing passenger services to 187 destinations in 79 countries.

Lufthansa German Airlines' Area Management office in the Asia-Pacific region is located in Singapore. It oversees the airline's overall commercial activities in the region including Japan, India, China, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The airline today provides 163 passenger flights a week from Asia-Pacific to Germany, including the 19 cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong in China, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad in India, and Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka in Japan. Further destinations are Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Manila, Seoul and Singapore.

Lufthansa has become the No. 1 European airline in Asia, but more than that, it has gained the trust of people and earned a respectable name in the airline industry.

Lufthansa passengers enjoy live television on board

With 50 aircraft Lufthansa has the world's largest Internet fleet

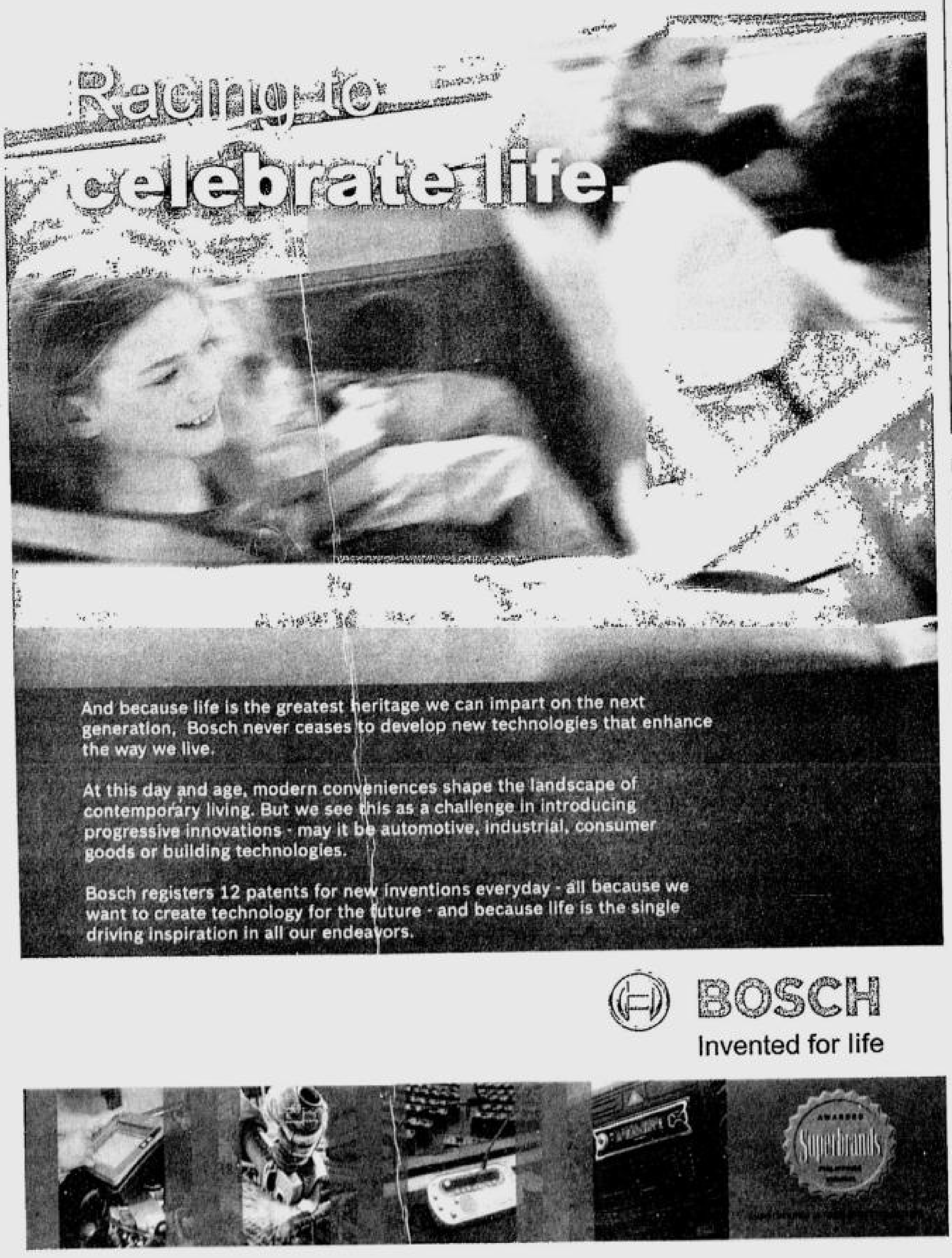
THE NEW YEAR OPENED WITH new advantages for the customer: Lufthansa passengers are now able to receive four live television channels on board directly on their laptops. Depending on the region of the world, BBC World, CNBC, euro news or MSNBC can be picked up via satellite. This is being made possible by Lufthansa FlyNet with its high-speed Internet provided by its partner and service-provider Connexion by Boeing. The trend-setting service had its world premiere almost exactly three years ago, as a trial on Lufthansa's Frankfurt-Washington route. Lufthansa FlyNet has been an integral part of the long-distance service since May 17, 2004, when the Munich-Los Angeles route was the first to herald in the new technological age. Currently, 50 long-haul aircraft are already equipped. Lufthansa thus has the world's largest Internet fleet at its disposal. By the end of next year, the entire long-range fleet with more than 80 aircraft is planned to be equipped with Lufthansa FlyNet.

Frequent flyers, in particular, appreciate the service and make use of their flying time for business or to inform themselves—or for entertainment. "My son was astonished when I told him I had won a million dollars flying Lufthansa to LA. You can play Who Wants to be a Millionaire? on the computer on board", German entertainer Thomas Gottschalk recently told the Lufthansa Magazine. The FlyNet service includes the free Lufthansa-FlyNet portal which the airline runs in cooperation with Tomorrow Focus AG. It has more than 1000 pages, among other things with news updates every hour, travel information and shopping opportunities. From the FlyNet portal, the passenger has access to the Connexion by Boeing service for which a fee is charged.

As of Jan. 31, 2006, Connexion by Boeing introduced a new pricing system, with more advantages for the customer. They now have a choice of time packages of between one and 24 hours. Unlimited high-speed Internet access above the clouds will cost only between $9.95 (an hour) and $26.95 (24 hours). A new feature is that the new 24-hour rate is valid on unlimited connecting flights.

Via the high-speed Internet access, Lufthansa passengers may surf the Internet, send and receive e-mails with attachments and gain access to their company's Intranet (Virtual Private Network) from onboard. Use is possible without cables via Wireless LAN (WLAN). Thus business travellers, in particular, on the one hand, have all the latest information and desk research possibilities; on the other, they can simultaneously make use of the wide variety of the entertainment program. An up-to-date overview of all Lufthansa-FlyNet routes can be accessed at www.lufthansa.com.

The FlyNet service includes the free Lufthansa-FlyNet portal which the airline runs in cooperation with Tomorrow Focus AG. It has more than 1,000 pages, among other things with news updates every hour, travel information and shopping opportunities



And because life is the greatest heritage we can impart on the next generation, Bosch never ceases to develop new technologies that enhance the way we live.

At this day and age, modern conveniences shape the landscape of contemporary living. But we see this as a challenge in introducing progressive innovations - may it be automotive, industrial, consumer goods or building technologies.

Bosch registers 12 patents for new inventions everyday - all because we want to create technology for the future - and because life is the single driving inspiration in all our endeavors.

BOSCH
Invented for life

MacroAsia Corporation

congratulates

Lufthansa
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

For their 25 Years
of Service
in the Philippines

PIATA

Congratulates
Lufthansa on
25 successful years
in the Philippines.

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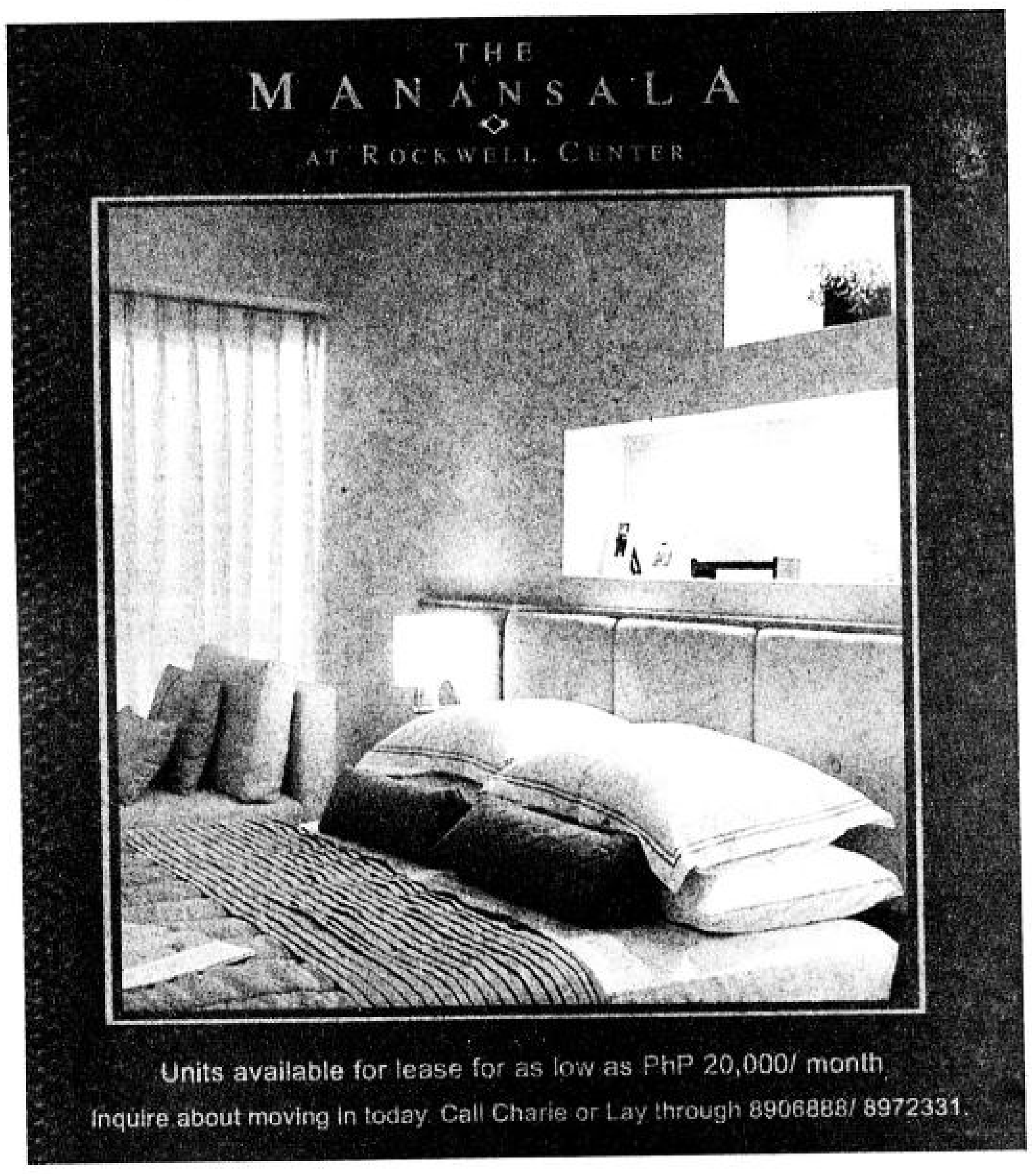
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Most innovative airline

Travel Savvy reader survey

THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE airline comes from Germany. For the readers of the renowned US magazine, Travel Savvy, in 2005 Lufthansa is the leader when it comes to innovation. And that is no mere coincidence. Especially in recent years, the airline with the elegant crane logo on its tail unit has repeatedly set new milestones. For example, since 2002 it has been the first airline to offer the exclusive 48-seat Executive Business Jet on selected routes to America. On Jan. 15, 2003, in cooperation with Connexion by Boeing, Lufthansa was the first to offer broadband Internet access on board. The First-Class Terminal in Frankfurt, unique worldwide, has been setting standards since last year in terms of exclusive service and individual care. Finally, with Lufthansa Private Jet, for half a year now the airline has been offering customized direct links between more than 1,000 airports in Europe. At the same time, these also provide links to long-haul flights from Frankfurt and Munich.

Lufthansa Private Jet, for half a year now the airline has been offering customized direct links between more than 1,000 airports in Europe

Warm Welcome from Lufthansa

LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES CONTINUES TO enhance the travel experience of its international passengers with the continuous extension introduction of the airline's Welcome Service at its Frankfurt and Munich hubs.

Passengers from the Philippines as well as Arabia, Argentina, Brasilia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, South Korea, Russia, Venezuela, and Vietnam receive a warm welcome from Lufthansa staff upon arrival in Frankfurt or Munich.

Lufthansa's Welcome Service aims to assist international passengers by providing important information about ticket inquiries, baggage claim, transit schedules, departure gates or other airport facilities in their own languages. Currently, the service is offered in 13 languages. Apart from Filipino, languages covered include Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Malayii, Hebrew, Portuguese, Spanish, Farsi, Vietnamese and Bahasa Indonesia.

"Our Welcome Service is just one of many innovations to make our passengers feel at home even when travelling around the world. Lufthansa strives to mesh the best international practices, the German signature for airline service excellence and the distinct local touch of each country of origin to provide our passengers with a unique travelling experience," said Lufthansa Philippines general manager Christopher Zimmer.

Lufthansa service professionals are stationed at the arrival area to welcome incoming passengers. Welcome banners in several local languages may be found at the arrival area to offer the service to passengers.

"Imagine an anxious traveller entering an unfamiliar territory. Imagine his relief as a Lufthansa staff welcomes him in his own language as he steps off the plane. That's what Lufthansa strives to provide all passengers—service with a global feel but with a local touch," added Minette Corpus, Lufthansa Philippines marketing manager.

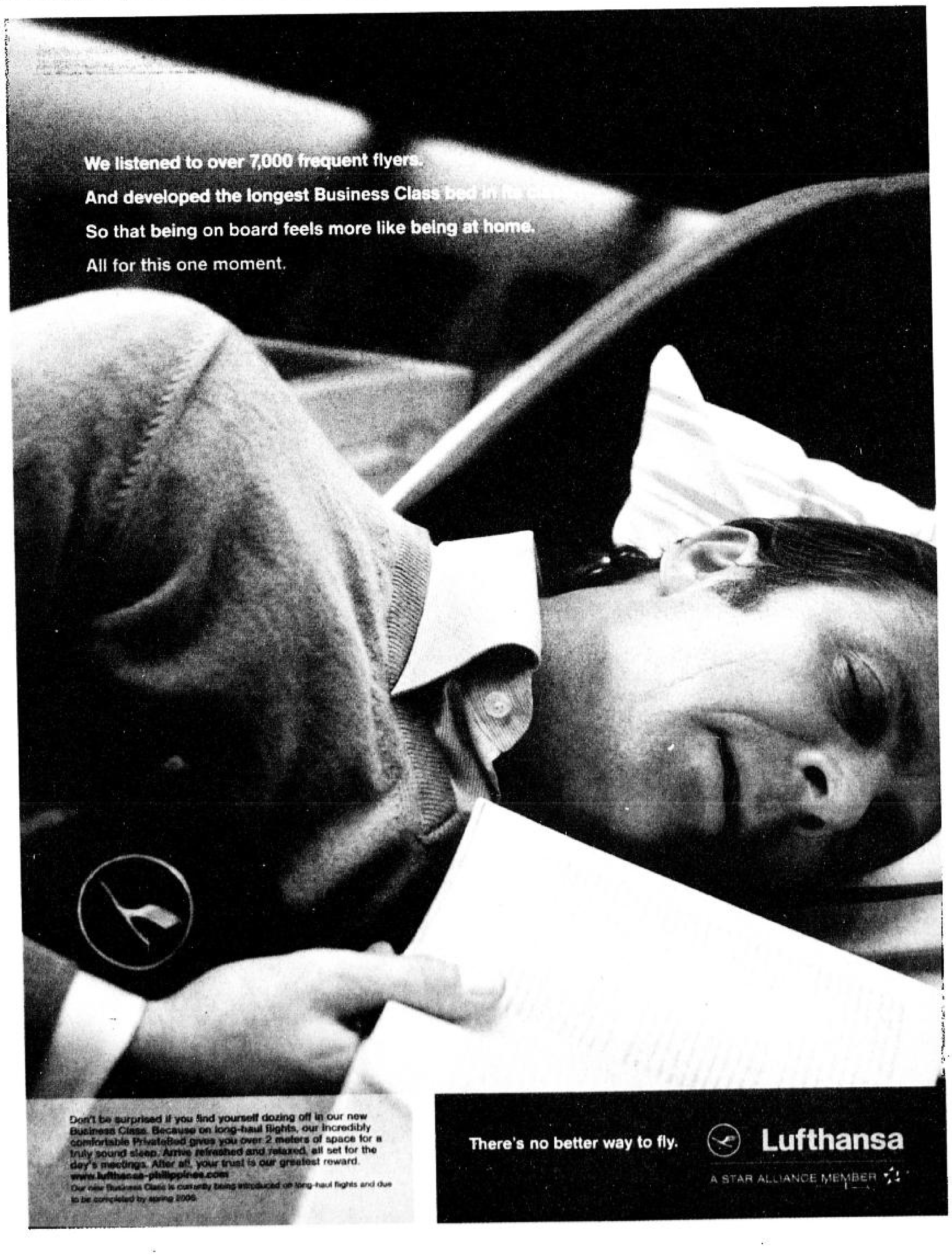
The Welcome Service is only one of several key elements of Lufthansa's new service product "Global Feel – Local Touch".

"Lufthansa adds local flavors into all service aspects, from country-typical culinary specialties to a wide range of reading materials and audio and video programs to regional comfort articles," said Corpus.

Whether on the ground or in the air, Lufthansa caters to the individual needs of their passengers.

"We always put a premium to our customer's travelling comforts. From modern air fleet, world-class airports and well-appointed passenger lounges to top-of-the-line media and in-flight entertainment and services, gourmet in-flight meals, handpicked wine selections, state-of-the-art PrivateBed, and FlyNet in-flight Internet portal and a whole lot more, Lufthansa guarantees on-time, safe, reliable, convenient air travel," added Corpus.

Lufthansa German Airlines has been serving the Philippines since 1981 and is the leading European carrier with the best onward connections from Asia to anywhere in Europe via its hub in Frankfurt, Germany.


We listened to over 7,000 frequent flyers.
And developed the longest Business Class bed in its class.
So that being on board feels more like being at home.
All for this one moment.

Don't be surprised if you find yourself dozing off in our new Business Class. Because on long-haul flights, our incredibly comfortable PrivateBed gives you over 2 meters of space for a truly sound sleep. Arrive refreshed and relaxed, all set for the day's meetings. After all, your trust is our greatest reward.
www.lufthansa-philippines.com
Our new Business Class is currently being introduced on long-haul flights and due to be completed by spring 2006.

There's no better way to fly. Lufthansa
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AyalaLand Premier

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At One Serendra, you'll have room to lounge and laze about in perfect luxury and ease. You'll have room for a whole lot of everything else as well. Because at One Serendra, you enjoy not just the 65% greenery offered every other Serendra owner, but appointments and living space unparalleled in the whole Bonifacio Global City. Ayala Land Premier's One Serendra has generously spaced units that give you and your family the kind of room normally only found in far-flung suburban developments. Do try to squeeze in a visit to us today. We've more than enough room to accommodate you.

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Discerning people like you know what you want, and the luxury of having everything you value within reach. Ayala Land Premier rises to the occasion with *One* place that sets you in the thick of things without compromising your personal rituals and solitude. *One* place that offers you a private enclave with modern conveniences and premium amenities at your leisure.

FIND THAT DIVINE FEELING OF EXCLUSIVITY IN YOUR VERY OWN ONE SERENDRA ADDRESS

LICENSE TO MOVE

No other property development in the city can deliver the kind of individual space and luxury One Serendra can offer. With units that measure all the way to 312 sq. meters, each One Serendra unit is designed to give you and your family all the room you will ever need. At One Serendra, movement is a luxury you can afford both indoors and outdoors.

AN EYE FOR DETAIL

Using only the finest materials, One Serendra provides that sumptuous feeling of home from the first day you settle in. Every unit boasts of wood parquet flooring, natural stone kitchen and toilet countertops, full closets for all rooms, split-type aircon, kitchen exhaust system, audio-video guest annunciator and luxurious little touches like walk-in closets, bathtubs in the master's bedroom and spacious balconies. The newest section in One Serendra features innovations like pop-out windows and lanai areas—perfect for added living space and unique settings for entertainment or other home activities.

PRIVATE INDULGENCES

One Serendra was built with your total well-being in mind. Designed especially for One Serendra residents, a full complement of world class amenities—an exclusive spa, pools, fitness center, game rooms and indoor and outdoor playing areas—lets you indulge in playtime and pampering sessions against a bountiful backdrop of exquisitely themed gardens such as an orchidarium, orchard and herb garden.

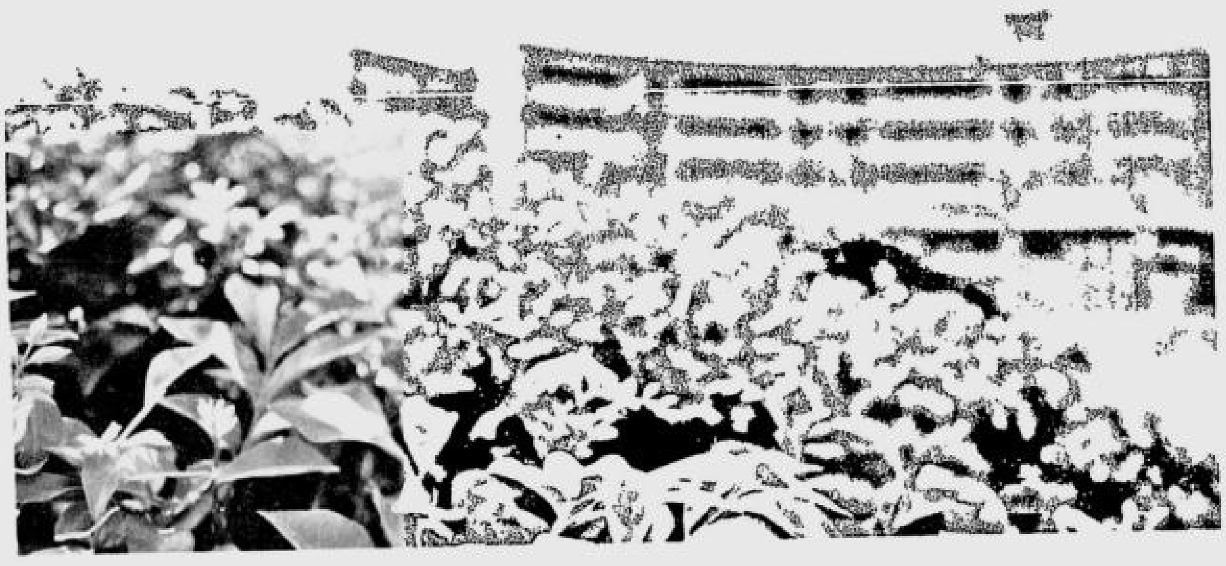
FULL-CIRCLE SERVICE

Round-the-clock security, valet service, concierge and personal assistance make One Serendra among the first complete-service residential developments in the Philippines. You'll rest easy knowing that you are surrounded by a dedicated staff with your safety and comfort in mind. The ample number of elevators and parking spaces for all units and 100% backup power make coming home a pleasant experience every single time.

One Serendra— your exclusive sanctuary, domain and retreat all within the Serendra community.

65% greenery.

Prepare to raise your expectations. The 12-hectare Serendra development has long meandering paths and wide open spaces, all sanctified by nature. And, clean air in the midst of the metropolis. All inspiring an end to the compromise between living far and living large.



suburban

School time segues into playtime along verdant parks and play areas. Buildings are ringed with jogging paths; gardens, swimming pools and fitness centers help refocus energies. Leave without your car keys and look forward to returning well in time for dinner—Serendra redefines the traditions of modern suburban living with refreshing citylife sensibilities.

centerpiece address

With exceptional business, educational and healthcare facilities nearby, all your inspirations are just moments away. Journeys become minutes as you weave through gardens and travel through your favorite shops at The Piazza of Serendra, an international esplanade of quaint and authentic shops and cafés just a few steps away. With such a well-planned development, all Serendra community residents will undoubtedly thrive in Bonifacio Global City, the premier business district celebrating the creativity and successes of home, work and play.

For inquiries, please contact Ayala Land Premier
Hotline: 889-1SER (1737) **E-mail:** oneserendra@ayalalandpremier.com **Web:** www.oneserendra.com
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